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CONGRESS.

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE HOUSE.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES MODIFIED AFTER A FIVE HOURS' DEBATE.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The House devoted five dreary hours to a discussion of its own rules. Mr. Maynard, from the Committee on Rules, reported back the new rule which was recommitted last week. It took the House from 12 until 5 o'clock to decide whether the rule should be adopted or rejected. It was finally adopted by about thirty majority. The rule, as amended, provides that all motions to suspend the rules, except where they may be suspended by a majority, shall, before being submitted to the House, be seconded by a majority as in the case of the previous question. The same line of argument was followed to-day as when the rule was first introduced. The Democrats managed to discover in the rule a serious invasion of the constitutional rights of the minority, and an attempt to throttle debate. They received to-day strong reinforcements from the Republican side, with Mr. Dawes as leader, and considerable accessions from the new members. The sentiment of a considerable portion of the new members seemed to be represented by Mr. Ward, of Illinois, who declared that the new members chafed under the existing rules, and believed that they were a practical violation of the Constitution, in that they seemed to prevent a call for the yeas and nays, even when demanded by the constitutional one-fifth of the members. Mr. Dawes thought that the Republican majority was now so very large that it was imprudent to adopt a rule which by any Constitution could be regarded as a violation of the rights of the minority. Gen. Butler, as might have been expected, since Mr. Dawes led the Republican opposition to the rule, was very glad to be on the other side, and favored the rule. He had himself had experience in the minority on measures which Mr. Dawes, as the leader of the majority, opposed, and, as Mr. Butler put it, he wanted the rule so fixed that Mr. Dawes could not get the House by the ears and oppress him in the minority. Whatever may be the effect of the rule in cases where parties in Congress may be more evenly divided than they now are, the evident purpose of the rule is to facilitate business and to prevent idle and impracticable legislation. It also had an additional purpose—that of preventing the passage of jobs in the last ten days of the session, when the rules may be suspended, and when, in the great haste and pressure of business, corrupt schemes are often passed without the general knowledge of the members. The rule is exceedingly important, and will have a marked effect upon legislation for the remainder of the session. Its operation may be illustrated by reference to the Cuban resolutions on which Mr. Cox succeeded in getting a vote, on a handful of votes in the beginning of the session. If the rule adopted to-day had then been in operation his resolution could not have been brought to a vote at all.

THE FORTY-FOUR MILLIONS LEGAL TENDERS.

The Committee on Ways and Means held a very important meeting this morning, at which the question of the right of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue the $44,000,000 legal-tender reserve was considered. A vote will be taken to-morrow. There is little doubt that the majority of the committee will decide to report a bill declaring that the $44,000,000 reserve shall be regarded as part of the legal-tender currency, and fixing the maximum circulation of the legal-tender notes at $400,000,000. The present minimum is $356,000,000, which would be thus increased to $400,000,000 by the recognition by Congress, or the practical legalization of the re-issue of the legal-tender reserve. The committee were by no means unanimous upon this subject. Mr. Beck, a Democratic member of the committee, has constantly insisted that the Secretary of the Treasury has no right to issue this reserve. Mr. Beck maintains that, in point of fact, the forty-four millions are not a reserve. He bases his argument upon the majority report of the Senate Committee on Finances in the last Congress, which decided against the legality of such issue. Fernando Wood, another Democrat of the committee, with two Republican members, are understood to form a minority of the committee. The majority of the committee are not entirely agreed with respect to the present legal right of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue these notes. There is a difference of opinion with regard to the construction of the law. Some of the committee agree in substance with the principles of the majority report of the Senate Finance Committee, which declares that the reserve does not exist and cannot be reissued, and that, consequently, the present issue is a practical violation of law. Others maintain that, inasmuch as the greater portion of the reserve is already issued, and, as it seems to be conceded that the issue was necessary for the best interests of the country, it is expedient to report a bill recognizing and giving lawful sanction to the issue. Such a bill does not compel any one to indorse the interpretation given to the law by the Secretary of the Treasury. It would be for those who differently construe the law a formal legal recognition of the fact that the reserve has been practically added to the volume of the currency. The proposed bill gives the volume of the currency at $400,000,000. It indorses the action of the Treasury Department, if the action were legal, and condones it if it were of doubtful legality.

THE DEBATE IN THE SENATE ON FINANCES.

The financial discussion in the Senate was continued to-day by speeches from Senators Brownlow, Gordon, and Chandler. Mr. Brownlow's speech was read by the Clerk, and commits him to support an inflation of the currency. Gen. Gordon's speech was forcible, quite rhetorical, and very long. He also favors an increase in the volume of the currency. Mr. Chandler spoke briefly, advocating a return to specie payments, and thinks resumption may be brought about by the 1st of January, 1875. He would pass a law forbidding the sale of gold by the Treasury, and authorizing the purchase, at the date mentioned, of $100,000,000 of gold additional to that held in the Treasury, if necessary to sustain the payment of specie. The discussion begins to flag, and Senator Sherman indicated his desire to have a vote on the committee's resolution to-morrow. It is quite uncertain that a vote can be had, however, till the last of the week. The resolution of the majority of the committee is hardly likely to pass in its present form, and those who are in favor of inflating the currency believe that the Senate will ultimately go as far as Senator Morton has proposed in his speeches on the subject, and will legalize the issue of the $44,000,000 reserve, and the issue of sufficient currency, about fifty millions, to equalize the amount distributed to the different States. Such action as this would not result in inflation or very greatly increase it, because, from past experience, it is evident new banks in the South and West will not be rapidly organized, and the $44,000,000 reserve, under the policy of the Treasury Department, is already issued in the same manner as it would be with further legislation on the subject.

THE SALARY BILL.

There have, for some days, been rumors that the President would veto the Salary bill, for which there seems to be no authority. The President has not yet had an opportunity of vetoing or approving it, for the reason that the engrossed bill was not sent to him until this afternoon.

MR. PINCHBACK'S CASE—GRAVE CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

Senator Morton, to-day, made a motion in the Assembly, which takes the case of Mr. Pinchback before the Committee on Privileges and Elections for further investigation. Charges are made against Mr. Pinchback touching his personal conduct relative to the election, and which in no way affect or touch upon the political questions at issue between the Kellogg and the McEnery Governments in Louisiana. The charges are in general that Pinchback secured his election by the corrupt use of money. They were brought to the attention of Mr. Morton for the first time last Saturday, and were made in such specific terms that he felt, as Chairman of the committee, he ought to use his influence to have the facts investigated. If the charges should be sustained by the evidence, and the Senate should decide that Mr. Pinchback had been guilty of conduct which would disqualify him from holding a seat, and should so vote, the political questions which were expected to arise in connection with his claim for admission would remain unsettled, for if not personally qualified to be a Senator, it matters little whether his election was by a legal or illegal Legislature. It will be seen, therefore, that Mr. Morton is not inconsistent with his former view of the contest in asking that the subject be again considered in committee, and such a state of facts may be shown that he might vote against the admission of Mr. Pinchback independently of any view that he has entertained heretofore.

THE CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

MR. WAITE'S CONFIRMATION DELAYED BY AN OBJECTION.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Judiciary Committee of the Senate, at its meeting this morning, decided to report favorably relative to the nomination of Mr. Waite for Chief Justice, and shortly after the morning hour the Chairman, Senator Edmunds, moved an executive session, and the nomination was favorably reported to the Senate. Once again prompt action was prevented by objection, which carried the subject over till to-morrow. The objections this time appear to come from some of those Senators who were warmest in support of Mr. Cushing. Mr. Sumner, who vouched for Caleb Cushing's Republicanism the other day, now opposes Mr. Waite because he ran against "Jim" Ashley for Congress in 1862. Mr. Sumner's strange friendships lead him often to curious actions, but none more curious than this opposition to Mr. Waite. Mr. Sumner believes in "Jim" Ashley, and would, without doubt, support him for Chief Justice in preference to Mr. Waite. The objections that have been raised are, thus far, trivial. No charges affecting his character and fitness for the position have appeared, and the captious opposition will probably cause no serious delay.

SENTIMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—During the brief executive session of the Senate this afternoon a favorable report from the Committee on Judiciary was made upon the nomination of Waite to be Chief Justice. Senator Edmunds asked the Senate to proceed to the consideration of the subject, but as objection was made, the report went over, under the rule in such cases, for one day. The objection came from Mr. Sumner. The nomination excites no enthusiasm, and, although Senators generally admit it to be a good one, there are others who are not perfectly satisfied with it. But there seems to be no doubt that the nomination will be confirmed, perhaps to-morrow, or when the Senate shall again go into executive session. It is sufficiently ascertained that the Judges of the Supreme Court regret that the selection has not been made from lawyers known and admitted by the entire country as in the front rank of their profession, instead of the nomination of a gentleman of only limited or local practice in his own State. He never has argued a case before that tribunal.

TONE OF THE WESTERN PRESS ON THE NOMINATION.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—The morning papers all have something to say on the nomination of Mr. Waite for Chief Justice.

The *Inter-Ocean* speaks of him as of modest, retiring disposition, with rather conservative tendencies, but a close student, a model lawyer, and looks for his confirmation without opposition.

The *Tribune* says all that is said of Morrison R. Waite, the President's third nomination for Chief Justice, is so far to his credit. He comes of illustrious judicial parentage, his father having been Chief Justice of Connecticut, and one of the most eminent jurists of New-England. He is a graduate of Yale, and is fifty-eight years of age. His assiduous devotion to the practice of law has prevented him from achieving cheap popularity, but placed himself, years ago, at the head of the Bar of North-western Ohio. He has commanded respectful public attention in the last two years for his services at Geneva as counsel for the United States, and at Columbus, Ohio, as President of the Constitutional Convention, over which he was presiding when he and the country were surprised by his nomination.

The *Times* denounces the nomination in severe terms and says: "Verily, the shades of Jay, and Marshall, and Taney, and Chase may arise to protest against a profanation of this venerated seat by a man so utterly incapable of filling it acceptably."

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 20.—The *Commercial*, commenting upon the nomination of Mr. Waite for Chief Justice, says: "It is from every point of view a respectable nomination—one that will be widely indorsed by the Bar, and satisfy the desires of the people."

The *Enquirer* says: "Though Mr. Waite's name is not the most shining among the jurists of the United States, his nomination will settle the vexed question of the Chief Justiceship more satisfactorily to the public than we have dared to expect."

The *Gazette* says: "The nomination is not only unexceptionable in every way, but is an admirable one, and there can be no reason to doubt its prompt confirmation."

FLIGHT OF A DEFAULTING CASHIER.

MONTREAL, Jan. 20.—J. G. Falkiner, for many years book-keeper and cashier for John Redpath & Son, absconded on Thursday night last. For some time past he speculated very freely in stocks and was unfortunate. He is said to have used about $4,000 of the money of the firm of Redpath & Son, and victimized a number of brokers to the extent of $40,000. The matter was kept quiet until to-day, Redpath & Son not intending to prosecute him.

THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 20.—The Legislature to-day passed a resolution congratulating Texas upon her release from Radical rule, also thanking President Grant for his impartial decision in the Texas matters.

ALBANY.

DEBATE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

ALBANY, Jan. 20.—In the Senate this morning the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Constitution was resumed in Committee of the Whole. Before entering upon the discussion, Mr. Robertson called attention to the fact that in section 6 of article 7 the name of the Black River Canal had, by a clerical error, been included in the list of the canals which the Legislature is to be prohibited from selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of, and which are to remain the property of the State and under its management forever. He, therefore, moved that the Black River Canal be stricken from the list, and, after a short discussion, this motion prevailed.

Mr. Johnson moved to strike out the whole of the proposed amendments to the fifth article, objecting particularly to those giving the Governor the power to appoint certain State officers instead of providing for their election by the vote of the people. Senator Parmenter approved of the objection made by Senator Johnson, and expressed himself as in favor of striking out the amendment named. Senator Wood, remarking the evident party turn which the discussion had taken, said that he hoped it would be remembered that the amendments as proposed were not the production of any political party or clique, but were the result of the mature labor and thought of the best men of both parties that the State could produce. In any event, should the amendments be passed favorably upon by the present Legislature, they would still have to go before the people, who could pass upon them, article by article, rejecting that which was distasteful to them, and voting favorably upon those amendments which they approved. On the other hand, should the present Legislature amend, or in any particular change the proposed amendments, they would again have to be considered by two successive Legislatures, and could not, therefore, come before the people until 1876. It was a very grave question for the Senate to consider whether this subject should be so long deferred.

At this stage Senator Bradley, one of the ablest Democratic members, arose, and in a very forcible speech stated that he was entirely in favor of the proposed amendments. He had been a member of the Constitutional Commission, and at that time he had voted for their passage, and now, although a Democrat, he would again vote for them. He did not believe that it was in the least degree a party question, but one which in most respects would be beneficial to the mass of the people. Heretofore the Governor of the State of New-York had been only a figure-head, with but little responsibility. Should the proposed amendments be adopted it would devolve upon the Executive to appoint some of the most important officers under the State Government. He would be responsible for their good character, and as their continuance in office or removal would rest with him he could be held to account for the way in which they discharged their duties. Such a result was greatly to be desired, as at present the responsibility was so much divided that no one could be held strictly accountable. If this were not the case why was it that the prisons, instead of being self-sustaining and remunerative, required an annual appropriation for their maintenance? The canals should also produce a much greater revenue than at present; and while he did not wish to censure the present management, he firmly believed that the people demanded a form of government that would make these institutions not only self-sustaining but productive of revenue. The office of Attorney General should also, in his opinion, be an appointive one. It was not a political office, and it was desirable that the gentleman holding it should be thoroughly in accord with the Governor, whose legal adviser he was. For all these reasons he should vote yea on the passage of the amendments.

After considerable discussion on the part of Senator Gross and others relative to different sections of the amendments, their further consideration was postponed until to-morrow, when they will again be taken up as the special order of the day.

Senator Coe was in his seat to-day and cast his first vote on the call of yeas and nays. He voted with the Democrats against the passage of the amendment increasing the appointive power of the Executive.

DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

In the House this morning the Governor's message was the special order of the day. Mr. Alvord was the only member who made an address on the subject. The chief point on which he dwelt was the vital importance to the interests of the country of an early resumption of specie payments. Inflation, he argued, was only favored by the gold gamblers, whose purposes it subserved. Mr. Alvord also urged the necessity of framing a law that will compel County Treasurers to pay promptly into the State Treasury the amount of taxes collected by them, instead of, as is the present practice, allowing the sums they collect to remain often for eight or ten months in banks of their own selection, without any interest being paid to the State. Mr. Alvord intimated his intention at an early day of introducing a bill that will do away with this abuse.

CERTIFIED CHECKS.

Mr. Waehner, of New-York, introduced a bill the main points of which are as follows: Any officer, employe, or servant of any bank who shall certify any bank check, draft, or instrument for the payment of money drawn upon or made payable at such bank in writing, for the purpose of giving credit to such instrument, or to the drawer or indorser thereof, when there are no funds to the credit of the drawer or indorser of such instrument actually deposited in such bank, subject to such instrument, and wherewith the same, on demand being made, could be paid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction, be punished by imprisonment not less than one nor more than five years, in the discretion of the Court. The second section provides that nothing in the previous section shall be construed to interfere with or affect the right of any person aggrieved by such wrongful act, to sue for and recover all damage sustained by reason thereof. The bill, as will be observed, aims to attain the same object as the one yesterday introduced by Mr. Alvord. Mr. Waehner, however, claims that Mr. Alvord's bill is rather loosely drawn, and would not be able to stand the assaults certain to be made upon it should it become law.

THE GAS MONOPOLISTS.

Mr. Donohue, of Kings, introduced a bill in relation to the sale of gas in the Cities of New-York and Brooklyn. The first section provides that every person or company manufacturing and selling or furnishing for consumption illuminating gas in those cities, shall furnish to the consumers, at the places where the gas is consumed, a gas which, used through a burner consuming five cubic feet per hour, shall be of an illuminating power equivalent to sixteen sperm candles, at a price not to exceed $2 per thousand cubic feet—the standard candle to be one consuming 132 grains per hour, the light of 3,200 such standard candles burning one hour to be considered one thousand cubic feet of gas. Any gas furnished the consumer of more or less than sixteen candle power or light as defined already, to be charged for at an increase or reduction, as the gas sold to the consumer shall vary from the standard of sixteen-candle power. The second section of the bill provides that the Mayors of the Cities of New-York and Brooklyn, by and with the consent of the Board of Aldermen, shall appoint a Gas Inspector for each of said cities respectively, whose duty it shall be to examine and test, without previous notice to manufacturers, all gas furnished to consumers. The third section provides for the appointment of Deputy Inspectors. The fourth section defines the duties of the Gas Inspector and his deputies in carrying out the provisions of the law. The fifth section defines the penalties incurred for violation of the statutes, being a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars and not less than two hundred and fifty for each offense. The seventh section provides that the persons or companies engaged in the manufacture and sale of gas in the Cities of New-York and Brooklyn, shall, according to the amount of capital invested, pay the salaries of the Gas Inspector and his deputies, and the other expenses incidental to carrying out the law.

THE LIQUOR INTEREST.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Holden, of Warren, in the interest of the liquor-dealers. It repeals all laws passed for the purpose of regulating the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and its effect, should it become a law, would be to leave the liquor-dealers free to do as they please.

STEAM ON THE CANALS.

The committee appointed by the Legislature three years ago to award the appropriation of $100,000 for the best invention that, realizing certain prescribed conditions, would enable steam to be used as a motive power on the canals, will present their report to-morrow. The report recommends that the whole matter be recommitted to the Legislature, on the ground that the conditions prescribed are too technical in their character, and such as no invention is likely to entirely realize. Two of the boats, the report states, of the many which were tried, namely, the Baxter and the Newman, answered almost every requirement demanded, and practically solved the problem.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS.

In the Senate a bill was introduced by Senator Gross, amendatory of the act in relation to the inspection of steam boilers. It provides that in future boilers shall be inspected by officers appointed for that purpose by the Board of Fire Underwriters.

THE BRITTON INVESTIGATION.

Gov. Dix stated to-day that his decision in the Britton case would not be rendered for some weeks to come. Rumor here has it that the decision is likely to be favorable to Mr. Britton.

THE TENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections held a meeting to-day in the case of Madden *vs.* Abbott, of the Tenth Senatorial District. Friend W. Johnson, who acted as Secretary of the Board of Canvassers of Sullivan County, produced the returns from the Fallsburg and Forrestburg districts in that county. No ballots, he said, were attached to the returns from Fallsburg when presented. Mr. Hale, counsel for Mr. Abbott, the sitting member, asked the witness whether the Supervisor made any statement in handing in the returns. Mr. Smith, counsel for Mr. Madden, objected to the question. Argument ensued, when Mr. Hale submitted what the sitting member offered to prove, which was, that the Supervisor of Fallsburg stated to the board that the erasure and alteration in the returns from the Second District of the town of Fallsburg were not made by the Board of Inspectors of said town. The examination of Johnson was then proceeded with. Returns from Fallsburg were shown the witness, who said: "This is the only paper which I saw submitted to the Board of Canvassers. I saw another paper, which was spoken of as the missing sheet. Am unable to tell where it is now." Mr. Smith then offered in evidence the returns from Fallsburg and Forrestburg. Mr. Hale objected, on the ground that the returns from Fallsburg had not been made in compliance with the statute, and that the returns from Forrestburg bore evidence of having been mutilated. The committee overruled the objection and admitted the returns. Mr. Smith, for the contestant, then stated that they rested their case, and on the evidence presented would move that the seat of the Tenth Senatorial District be awarded to Mr. Madden. The committee then adjourned.

CITY REVENUE BONDS—THE UP-TOWN AVENUES.

The Committee on Cities of the Assembly held a meeting this afternoon. The Senate bill which provides for the issuing of short bonds for the payment of the bonds of the City and County of New-York which were due on the 15th inst., and those which will become due on the 1st of February, was considered, and the committee agreed to report it favorably. The committee also agreed to report favorably the bill introduced by Mr. Daly, of New-York, amending the City charter so as to vest power in the Common Council to authorize and direct the grading, paving, and construction of Riverside and Morningside avenues, work upon which has been suspended owing to the fact that both the Commissioners of Public Parks and the Commissioners of Public Works claimed to have control in the matter. The effect of Mr. Daly's bill will be to give immediate employment to a large number of workmen. The money for the work is to be raised from assessments on the property on the line of the improvements.

THE NEW CITY PRISON BILL.

The bill repealing the act for the creation of a new City Prison in New-York was also considered, and will be reported favorably.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION SWINDLE.

Among the other bills examined in the committee were the two in regard to the Industrial Exhibition swindle. One of these, that introduced by Mr. Hamilton Fish, Jr., absolutely repeals the charter granted to the company, while the other amends it so as to strike out the clause ordering the Mayor and Corporation of New-York to hand over to McMurdy and his associates $2,500,000. The committee, after mature consideration, determined to report favorably the bill of Mr. Fish; so the doom of the Industrial Exhibition swindle may be regarded as sealed.

THE BROOKLYN COMMISSIONERS OF CHARITES AND CORRECTION.

Ex-Supervisor Prentice, of Kings County, appeared before his Excellency the Governor to-day and preferred charges against the Commissioners of Charities and Correction of Brooklyn. The allegations against them are that they failed to present their report to the Supervisors, as required by law; that they bought and contracted for goods which were not necessary for the use of their department, and paid exorbitant prices for the same from corrupt motives.

THE TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT CONTEST.

The news of the election of Sullivan in the Twenty-first Assembly District created much surprise among New-Yorkers here, as the general impression was that Crary would prove the victor in the race. The Tammany men seek to make the best of the defeat of the candidate of their party, saying that Crary was unpopular, and only received the nomination because John Kelly insisted upon it.

THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Jan. 20.—At the annual meeting of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, to-day, Asa Packer was re-elected President. The annual report contains the following items: Total coal tonnage for the year, 4,172,366 tons; total receipts from all sources, $7,424,894; expenses, $3,884,859; net income, $3,540,035.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST A CRIMINAL JUDGE.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 20.—In the State Senate to-day a resolution was introduced charging Judge Primm, of the St. Louis Criminal Court, with such gross immorality and offensive and indecent conduct as to render him an unsuitable and unsafe person to discharge the duties of the office, and asking that he be removed. The matter was referred to the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 20.—The Massachusetts Senate to-day adopted the House order for a special committee on the State Police. The matter has usually been referred to the Committee on the Liquor Law. The annual report of the State Board of Health was sent in, and 10,000 copies ordered to be printed.

DESPERATE FIGHT BETWEEN CONVICTS.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 20.—Maurice Healy and Thomas Smith, convicts in Massachusetts State Prison, working in the tailoring department, had a desperate fight to-day with tailor's shears. Smith's wounds are probably mortal. Healy was badly cut but will survive.

THE KEY WEST FLEET.

KEY WEST, Fla., Jan. 20.—The United States steamer Wachusett has arrived from Cedar Keys with Commodore Parker, who will take the fleet to the Tortugas for drill in his new steam tactics.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

MR. CUSHING TO GO TO MADRID.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Mr. Cushing has definitely decided to take the Spanish mission, and is making active preparations for his departure to Madrid.

Dispatch to the Associated Press.

NOMINATIONS SENT TO THE SENATE.

The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate: Edward W. Arnold, to be Register of the Land Office at Grand Island, Neb.; Norman Thatcher, to be Receiver of Public Moneys at Menasa, Wis.; Alexis E. Devine, to be Receiver at Natchitoches, La.; C. W. Holbrook, to be Register of the Land Office at New-Orleans, La., and Presley M. Rixey, to be Assistant Surgeon in the navy.

NAVAL ORDERS.

Assistant Paymaster Enoch E. Lewis has been ordered to the Canonicus; First Assistant Engineer J. Van Arenburg, to the Shawmut; Lieut. Commander Henry C. Taylor has been detached from the Saranac and ordered to the Coast Survey steamer Hassler; First Assistant Engineer John Bothwick, from the Alaska and ordered to the Naval Academy.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

The report submitted by Mr. McCrary, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee on Railways and Canals, upon House bill No. 1,210, presents amendments thereto in the nature of a substitute, and recommends its passage. The bill asserts the right and duty of Congress to regulate inter-State commerce, as carried on by railroads, and prescribes, as one of the regulations thereof, that the charges for carrying freight and passengers upon such railroads shall in all cases be fair and reasonable, and provides suitable penalties for infringement of this regulation. The report discusses the constitutionality of such a measure, and, if constitutional, its expediency. It claims that section 8, article 1, of the Constitution of the United States confers, in express terms, power to legislate in this behalf, and claims that its expediency is beyond question.

CUSTOMS SEIZURES—AN IMPORTANT BILL.

The Senate Finance Committee this morning agreed to report favorably Mr. Fenton's bill providing that in cases of fraudulent undervaluation of imports the confiscation penalty shall apply only to the particular item or items undervalued, and not to the whole invoice.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate, in executive session, to-day confirmed the nomination of James E. Bangs, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Joint Commission for determining the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains; also the following to be Postmasters: Charles W. Robbins, at Niles, Ohio; Mrs. Elizabeth B. Cuthbertson, at New-Brighton, Penn.; Willard Howe, South Framingham, Mass.; B. F. Marsh, West Winsted, Litchfield County, Conn., and Amasa S. Tracy, Middlebury, Vt.

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Ways and Means to-day had an interchange of opinions on the various subjects before them, including tariff and finance, but came to no conclusion.

GEN. HOWARD'S CASE.

The House Military Committee agreed to report a resolution recommending and requesting the President to appoint a board of five officers to investigate the affairs of Gen. Howard in connection with the allegations against him embodied in the recent letters of the Secretary of War.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Miss Anthony, Miss Cozzens, Mrs. Spencer, and other female suffrage advocates appeared before the House Committee on Judiciary to-day in advocacy of the petition and the bill giving suffrage to women.

POSTAL MATTERS—THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE AGAIN.

The House Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads to-day decided that the benefits of free letter delivery by carriers should not extend to cities having less than 25,000 inhabitants. They also agreed to a resolution explaining a previous act of Congress referring to the Post Office Department. It appears that the Solicitor of the Post Office Department has decided that locks, postal cards and stamps should be classed as stationery, and that contracts can only be made for one year. This, the Postmaster General stated, would result disadvantageously in the supply of postal cards and locks. The committee will present to the House a resolution explanatory of the intent of the law, which will provide that such articles as fluctuate in price shall be contracted for by the year. But for articles of postal expenditure in which the Government alone is the dealer, contracts can be made for such periods as in the judgment of the Postmaster General he deems for the best interests of the service. The committee will soon report a bill restoring the franking privilege to a limited extent.

THE CENTRAL BRANCH OF THE UNION PACIFIC.

Mr. H. H. Day, of New-York, was before the House Committee on Judiciary, this morning, advocating a subsidy of bonds and lands for the extension of the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. This company is seeking to extend its road from the present western terminus to the Union Pacific, a distance of 200 miles, and to receive a land and bond subsidy. They claim the right under existing laws. The amount involved is between six and eight millions of dollars, and the matter has been brought up by a bill introduced by Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, declaring that the company has no such right as it claims. No decision was reached.

THE FORTY-FOUR MILLIONS GREENBACKS.

The question of the right of the Secretary of the Treasury to draw on the $44,000,000 reserve has been discussed by the Committee on Ways and Means, who have agreed to present the subject to the House and have it settled there. They will present a resolution, however, fixing the limit of the national legal tender currency at $400,000,000. This will prevent the covering into the Treasury of any of the $44,000,000 that has been paid out.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Supervising architect of the Treasury, Mullett, who was before the House Committee on Appropriations to-day, gave a detailed statement of the condition of the public buildings in process of construction, and said his revised estimates were cut down to the lowest possible figure, and that the sums asked for were absolutely necessary to prosecute work on the Government buildings already commenced. It is known that, although the Committees of the two Houses on Public Buildings and Grounds have taken no formal action, they are in accord on the point that they will not recommend appropriations for public works not already commenced.

PRINTING OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The Joint Committee on Printing held their first meeting this session to-day, and commenced an informal discussion of the propriety and best means of reducing the publication of public documents. There will be further interchange of views before taking any action on the subject.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

In response to Senate resolution offered by Mr. Morrill, of Maine, on the 8th inst., requesting information relative to any unauthorized occupation or invasion of or encroachment upon the Indian territory by individuals or bodies of men in violation of treaty stipulations, the President transmitted to the Senate to-day a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, in which he states: "The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom said resolution was referred, reported to this Department on 15th inst. that the Indian Office is in possession of no information indicating at the present time any violation of the treaty stipulations of the character therein indicated. It is proper to remark, however, that occasions have not been infrequent when portions of said territory have been invaded and occupied by unauthorized persons, who have been treated as trespassers, and for whose removal from said Territory the aid and co-operation of the military had been required."

EVENING RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

The first evening reception of the season at the Executive Mansion was this evening attended by an immense throng of ladies and gentlemen. The Diplomatic Corps, the army, the navy, the Cabinet, and both Houses of Congress were well represented. A large number of strangers also availed themselves of this opportunity to pay their respects to the President. The Marine Band was in attendance.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

The National Civil Rights Council have issued an address to the colored people throughout the country setting forth what further action and legislation were necessary to make their citizenship complete. It urges complete organization everywhere among colored people in support of civil rights, regarding it as essential to be active, harmonious, and united. The name of Geo. T. Downing, the President of the Council, is subscribed to the address.

CORRECTION.

It was E. A. Williams, and not A. B. Williams, as published in many of the papers as arrested for the robbery of the Internal Revenue Bureau. The latter is a highly-respected member of the Washington Bar.

THE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

The fifty-seventh anniversary meeting of the Colonization Society was held here to-night, presided over by John H. B. Latrobe, and addresses were delivered by Revs. Geo. W. Sampson, W. T. R. Taylor, Thomas J. Pearne, and John Orcutt. The report shows that the receipts for 1873, including a balance from the previous year of $586 31, had been $35,922 02. Of this sum there has been paid for passage and support of emigrants, $9,215 16; borrowed money returned, $11,000; and for other objects $15,473 37; leaving $233 49 in the treasury on Jan. 1, 1874. The emigration to Liberia every year, under the auspices of the society, has been uninterrupted for the last fifty-three years. Those sent in 1873 make the number colonized since the war to be 3,060, and a total from the beginning of 15,048, exclusive of 5,722 recaptured Africans, which we induced and enabled the United States to settle in Liberia, making a grand total of 20,770 persons to whom the society has given homes in Africa. Intelligence from Liberia indicates growth and prosperity. Agriculture is steadily on the increase.

LEE'S BIRTHDAY.

CELEBRATION BY EX-CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS—NO NATIONLL FAAG.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 20.—Yesterday the anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee, "the honored chieftain of the Southern cause; the greatest hero and Christian [of modern times, the loved and lamented Southern leader," as the Democratic papers here say, was celebrated throughout Georgia by the mourners for the "lost cause." In Savannah, reorganized rebel companies marched through the principal streets, and were reviewed at the park by Joseph E. Johnston, whom the Democratic papers here [call "the surviving hero of the Confederacy." "The brigade," as it is called, consisted of ten companies of infantry, one of cavalry, and one of artillery, all dressed in Confederate gray. No national flag was to be seen in the "brigade," but a rebel battle-flag, presented to the Fifty-fourth Georgia Regiment by "Pat" Cleburne, and carried by that regiment during the late "unpleasantness," was proudly borne by a survivor of the lost cause, who, when the "brigade" arrived at the park, was stationed at the point designated for the column to pass in review.

When the colored company celebrate the Fourth of July and Emancipation Day, they display the Stars and Stripes. When the Ex-Confederate companies celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Lee, they proudly flaunt an old rebel battle-flag.

THE THORNDIKE MURDER.

JOHN T. GORDON SENTENCED TO BE HANGED AFTER ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT—HE PROTESTS HIS INNOCENCE.

BELFAST, Me., Jan. 20.—The last act connected with the trial of John T. Gordon, the Thorndike murderer, took place to-day. At 2 o'clock the prisoner was brought into court. County Attorney Fogler, in the absence of the Attorney General, moved that sentence be pronounced. In reply to an inquiry by Judge Dickerson if he had anything to say in his behalf, Gordon, in a firm voice and without any apparent emotion, spoke substantially as follows: "I am not guilty, in the first place, although circumstances, evidence, and false witnesses are all arrayed against me, and although there are doubts about the existence of such a man as Charles W. Greene, who committed the murder, and who was seen by more than one person in Thorndike on the 7th of last June conversing with me. I might go back and review the relationship which existed between my brother, his wife and family, and myself. In regard to the letters received by a young lady with whom I was keeping company, which were derogatory to my character, and which are said to constitute a motive for the murder, she says these letters did not change her mind. I do not see where the motive was. I think there was doubtful evidence enough to grant me a new trial. Everything connected with my past life has been distorted to a great extent, even after the murder was committed. Even the little boy who was wounded was made to give a false answer when asked about the murder. Public sentiment has been strong against me. If you feel inclined to sentence me I cannot help it. I am, before God and man, innocent of the deed, and time will show it." Judge Dickerson, in a solemn and impressive manner, then sentenced the prisoner to be hanged in the jail-yard at Thomaston after one year's imprisonment.

THE WEATHER.

SYNOPSIS AND PROBABILITIES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21—1 A. M.—The barometer continues high, with clear and freezing weather in New-England. It has risen on the Atlantic coast, with threatening weather in the southern portion of the Middle States and clear weather on the South Atlantic coast. Cloudy weather and rain, with easterly winds and less pressure, are reported from the lake region and the Ohio Valley. Rain and snow, with southerly winds and low barometer, are reported from the North-west. The temperature has risen decidedly in the Lower Mississippi Valley and in the Gulf States, with southerly winds and partly cloudy weather. The rivers in Western Pennsylvania have risen rapidly during the day.

PROBABILITIES.

For New-England, clear or fair weather during a portion of the day, followed by cloudy weather and probably rain or snow, with a slight rise of temperature during Wednesday evening.

For the Middle States and the lower lake region, easterly to southerly winds and rain or sleet will prevail, with falling barometer and rising temperature.

For the Southern States east of the Mississippi River, easterly winds veering to southerly, with continued high temperature and fair weather, except possibly in the lower Mississippi Valley and Tennessee, where rain will prevail

For the Ohio Valley and thence northward, over the upper lake region and the upper Mississippi Valley, cloudy weather, with rain or snow, during a portion of the day, followed by clearing and colder weather in the North-west.

The rivers in western Pennsylvania will continue to rise during Wednesday.

IN THIS CITY.

The following record shows the changes in the temperature during the last twenty-four hours, as recorded at Hudnut's drug store, No. 218 Broadway: 3 A. M., 35°; 6 A. M., 34°; 9 A. M., 35°; 12 M., 39°; 3 P. M., 33°; 6 P. M., 28°; 9 P. M., 26°; 12 P. M., 23°. Average, 33 1-3°.

RAILROAD BRIDGE BURNED.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 20.—The Eastern Railroad bridge at Biddeford, Me., was totally destroyed by fire, this afternoon; loss $70,000. The bridge was built in 1861.

FALL FROM A SCAFFOLDING.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 20.—Samuel H. Curtis, a carpenter, fell thirty feet from a building in Malden, to-day, and received dangerous internal injuries.

LATEST NEWS BY CABLE.

FRANCE.

PRESENTATION OF A GOLD MEDAL TO M. THIERS FROM PHILADELPHIA.

PARIS, Jan. 20.—Mr. Washburne, the American Minister, yesterday, on behalf of the French residents of Philadelphia, presented Ex-President Thiers with a gold medal.

In his speech on the occasion, Mr. Washburne alluded in terms of warm praise to the friendship shown by France to the United States during the American Revolution. He also eulogized the French people who have taken up their residence in the United States. M. Thiers feelingly replied. After expressing his thanks to his countrymen in the United States for their repeated manifestations of confidence in him, he declared that the Republic was the

FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION—Jan. 20.

SENATE.

Mr. SHERMAN presented the credentials of Hon. A. G. Thurman, who was re-elected United States Senator from Ohio for six years from March 4, 1875.

Petitions were presented for revision of the Internal Revenue laws; against any increase of the volume of currency, and asking that the National Banking act be amended, and that the volume of fractional currency be reduced.

LAND CLAIMS.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, presented the petition of citizens of New-Mexico and Colorado Territories in regard to the Maxwell Land Grant and Railroad Company, and asking the enactment of a law limiting the amount of land grantees, and moved that it be referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. SARGENT, of California, suggested that it be referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims, as that committee had more time to investigate the subject. Millions of acres of public land grants had been confirmed to parties having no right to them, and there should be a thorough investigation. There was fraud somewhere, and it should be ferreted out.

Mr. SUMNER accepted the suggestion to refer to the Committee on Private Land Claims, and it was so referred.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

Mr. OGLESBY, of Illinois, presented a petition of the National Board of Trade in regard to increasing the facilities and cheapening the rates of transportation between the interior and the sea-board, and asking for the improvement of the natural water-routes. He said, in presenting this petition of the National Board of Trade, he did so as an expression of the increasing feeling in this country upon the important question of cheap transportation. He must insist that this question to-day is demanding more attention than the question of finance. He knew of no question of so much concern to the Western people as that of cheap transportation, and he hoped the committee having the matter in charge would be prepared at an early day to submit to the Senate some practical solution of this problem. If the foreign markets were to fix the price of the grain or this nation, then it became important to the people of the West and the whole community what the charges should be between the point of production and the point of sale. The charges now imposed by the railroad, steam-boats, middle-men, and commission merchants exceed threefold the price paid the producer. This question must be met in some form by the people of the United States, but more particularly by the Congress of the United States. He did not know where the solution would come from, as he had lost all hope of bringing the railroads to a fair and just compensation for transportation of products. They met the producer at every point with the old common law doctrine, the statement that he should have his freight transported at a reasonable compensation, and, if the charges were more than reasonable, he could go to court and have it settled by the court and jury. But how hopeless it is for the shipper to go to court. The expense meets him at once and drives him away; therefore, he has no redress. The people are no more than moderate in their demands that the General Government should consider this question. He belonged to that class which believed that there could be found in the Constitution of the United States power to meet any question of national importance. The powers of the Constitution are ample and full to meet all exigencies at all times for the wants of the people. He believed power could be found in it to meet this question of transportation. There was power conferred by it for Congress to cross the line to look into the States to construct railroads and canals, until the people of all sections of the country became satisfied. He had no local feeling in the matter, but if the great West was to be cramped and confined for the want of transportation to market, less than a quarter of a century would pass before Europe and the great East would be clamoring for the products of the West. The people of the West are active, industrious, and enterprising, and they would transfer the manufactories of the East and of Great Britain to their own section and thus use their own products. The vast surplus of pork, wheat, corn, barley, and rye of the West could hardly be estimated. A market must be found. He differed from the National Board of Trade as to the power of Congress in the matter. The board seemed to have a doubt as to that power, but he had none. He believed Congress had power to construct a railroad if it was deemed expedient to do so. He did not say that Congress had the right to regulate charges on private railroads, but it could confer powers on a corporation to construct a railroad and prescribe rates and fares to be charged. He had not yet made up his mind to vote a single dollar from the national Treasury for that purpose, but would be willing to vote for one such road to be constructed from New-York to the Missouri River, with branches to Chicago, St. Louis, and other places. Should he vote for that, however, he would be expected to vote for fifteen or twenty more such roads, and that he was not prepared to do. He asked that the petition be referred to the Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard, with the request that the committee, within reasonable time, should present its conclusions on this intricate question. He had no hope that after all their industry and thought they would be able to present a satisfactory solution of it; but their report would be a step in the right direction. The petition was referred to that committee.

Mr. BOGY, of Missouri, having obtained unanimous consent, said the question of cheap transportation had assumed an aspect of great importance, and all felt it. Although he did not rise to give in his adhesion to the party called Grangers he hailed the birth of that organization with a great deal of pleasure. The farmers of the West felt the wrong they labored under. In his estimation, the object most desired was the opening of the natural water routes of the interior leading to the oceans, and the improvement of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, and other large streams of the West. The mouth of the Mississippi should be improved, so that vessels of the largest class could come up to New-Orleans. Remove these obstructions, and we will have afforded to the great West a means of cheap transportation, and give the people means to reach foreign markets with their products. He did not favor the construction of a railroad now. Let that rest for the time being, and confine legislation to the opening of the great water routes.

THE LOUISIANA SENATORS.

Mr. MORTON, of Indiana, asked unanimous consent to take up the resolution for the admission of P. B. Pinchback in the Senate as Senator from Louisiana. He said he desired to have the resolution taken up that he might make a motion to have it recommitted to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with instructions to send for persons and papers and investigate as to the matter. Since last Friday he had received information justifying him in the belief that an investigation touching the circumstances should be made.

Mr. MCCREERY said he had obtained the floor some days ago for the purpose of addressing the Senate on the subject of Louisiana affairs, and, if it met the views of the Senate, he would appoint Monday, after the expiration of the morning hour, to submit his remarks. He therefore objected to the resolution being taken up now.

Mr. MORTON gave notice that after the gentleman (Mr. McCreery) should conclude, on Monday, he would move that the resolution be recommitted for the purpose of investigation.

At a later stage of the proceedings Mr. Morton said that, for the purpose of avoiding misapprehension, he would state that matter which he proposed to have investigated when he asked to take up the resolution for the admission of Mr. Pinchback, was to have the Committee on Privileges and Elections inquire, not as to whether Mr. Pinchback was elected by the legal Legislature of Louisiana, nor as to the validity of the Kellogg Government, but as to the personal conduct of Mr. Pinchback himself in connection with that election.

PRINTING OF SPEECHES.

Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island, presented a petition of the employing printers of Washington, D. C., in regard to work being done at the Government Printing Office, such as the printing of law records, Congressmen's speeches, &c., in violation of law. He said that all speeches printed at the Government Office by Congressmen were paid for by themselves, they having the right under the law to have printing done at the Government Office by paying for it. As members of Congress, in our days, were accused of stealing everything, from a railroad to a tooth-pick, he desired it to be understood their speeches, printed at the Government Office, were paid for by themselves.

POWER OF CONGRESS OVER RAILWAY INCORPORATION.

Mr. CLAYTON, of Arkansas, called up the resolution submitted by him on the 8th of December last, instructing the Committee on Railroads to consider the expediency of reporting a bill providing for a general system of railroad incorporation. He said that in view of the great importance of the question of cheap transportation, and the probability of its being determined that Congress has no constitutional power in regard to chartering railroads through States, he desired to have the resolution referred to the Judiciary Committee, with the request that the committee, would, at an early day, lay before the Senate their views as to the power of Congress to legislate on this subject. The resolution was so referred.

Mr. SHERMAN introduced a bill for the payment of the bonds of the Louisville and Portland Canal Company, which continues in full force and makes permanently applicable the appropriations made for that purpose by the act of March 3, 1873, and directs the Secretary of the Treasury to take possession of the property within thirty days after the enactment of the bill.

THE FINANCCIAL QUESTION.

Consideration of the resolution reported by the Finance Committee, in regard to relieving the money stringency was resumed.

Mr. BROWNLOW, of Tennessee, submitted remarks which were read by the Clerk, the Senator being too feeble to speak. He thought an immediate return to specie payment would be destructive to the business of the country. Our present financial system he thought, was very good, but capable of some amendment, one of the principal defects being the unequal distribution of the currency. The South and West wanted more, and measures should be taken to relieve these sections.

Mr. GORDON, of Georgia, said when, in an agricultural country like the United States, the cultivation of the soil ceases to be remunerative, and its profits year by year are absorbed by others than the tillers of the soil, the producers growing poorer and poorer and the non-producers rich, there was a fundamental error in our financial system. The cultivation of the soil was not remunerative, and the price paid for the use of the circulating medium was far in excess of the profits of the producer. Wealth disseminated itself less and less, and the power of concentrating money increased. The evil, could be remedied by Congress, and he believed more currency was what was needed to do this. If Congress would announce that it intended to give more money to the people and give it flexibility, that very hour would bring relief to the country and bring out millions of greenbacks now hoarded up. He spoke of the wants of his section and said he believed there was more prosperity there when it took sixty dollars in Confederate money to buy one in gold in the days of the war. If gold should all be banished from the country, it would make no difference, providing we had a currency universally recognized. Some of the most beggarly countries in the world were those where they have nothing but specie payments—Spain, for instance—while some of the most prosperous countries of the world were those where there was a suspension of specie payment. He thought this effort of the Government to bring gold into the country irrational, and only resulted in keeping gold out by stifling industry. Cheap money was what we wanted. The Southern States had but a little over $3 per capita circulation, and that was not enough for the industries of that section. The South is poorer to-day than she was the day Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court-house. Unless this Congress give speedy relief nothing but ruin and bankruptcy awaits the people there in the near future. The ruling bank interest in Georgia is one and one-half per cent a month, and that discounted from the face of the note, and compounded every thirty or sixty days. What country on the face of the earth could stand such rates? Give the people more money, and give that money elasticity. He hoped the day would come when we would issue money not founded on gold, but on the faith of the Government, and receivable for all dues alike.

Mr. CHANDLER, of Michigan, said there should be more money, but better money. What the business of the country required was stability. The business of the nation would conform to any state of facts, providing those facts be permanent. He therefore advocated return to a specie basis. Government should say it would resume specie payment on the 1st of January, 1875, authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow one hundred millions of dollars in gold at that time; stop the sale of gold now, and by the 1st of January we would have two hundred millions in gold to begin the redemption of our legal tenders. He opposed any increase in the volume of the currency, even the issue of the $44,000,000 reserve.

THE POST ROUTE BILL.

The financial resolution was laid aside informally, and the Post Route bill was taken up.

Mr. PRATT, of Indiana, offered an amendment declaring all bridges heretofore or hereafter to be erected across navigable rivers and all public railroads to be post routes.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, offered an amendment that hereafter no service should be ordered on post routes until an examination as to the necessity therefor be made by a special agent and approved by the Postmaster General.

Mr. PRATT explained that the object of his amendment was to leave the matter in the hands of the department to establish these post routes, and do away with the necessity of a Postal Route bill every year.

Mr. RAMSEY opposed the amendment, as it would legalize every bridge over the Missouri and other rivers, and prevent Congress ordering their removal if it be found that they obstructed navigation.

Pending the discussion, the bill was laid aside and the finance resolutions again taken up, upon which Mr. Merrimon, of North Carolina, was entitled to the floor, but upon commencing he gave way to a motion for adjournment, and at 4:35 P. M. the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. DONNAN, of Iowa, from the Committee on Printing, reported back the Senate bill directing the printing of 1,500 copies of the Biennal Register, instead of the number now authorized, which was passed.

RAILROAD CHARGES FOR FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS.

Mr. MCCRARY, of Iowa, from the Committee on Railroads and Canals, reported a bill which provides for the regulation of passenger and freight charges on railroads, through a commission of nine members to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to hold office for two, four, and six years, with a compensation of $4,000 and actual traveling expenses.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee, from the Committee on Rules, reported a new rule providing that all motions to suspend the rules, except to go into the Committee of the Whole, shall, before being submitted to the House, be seconded by a majority as in the case of the previous question. The proposition gives rise to considerable discussion, the new rule being advocated by some as a means of preventing the House from being forced to vote by yeas and nays on buncombe resolutions, and being opposed by others as an infringement on the constitutional rights of the minority, which would thus be cut off from the power to have a vote taken on propositions emanating from it. After an hour's discussion Mr. Maynard moved the previous question, but the House refused to second it, and the discussion was resumed, continuing till the close of the session.

Mr. SCOFIELD, of Pennsylvania, moved to amend the proposed rule by allowing the question of seconding motions for suspension of the rules to be taken by yeas and nays.

Mr. WARD, of Illinois, moved to lay the proposed rule on the table. Negatived—yeas 115, nay 127.

Mr. SCOFIELD then withdrew his amendment.

After several yea and nay votes the rule was adopted by a vote of 124 to 101.

The House then, at 5:10 o'clock, adjourned.

STREET-CAR STATISTICS.

The earnings of the lines of City street cars for the past year are given in the State Engineer's report as follows: Broadway and Seventh Avenue Line, total receipts, $920,158; expenses, $599,364; number of passengers carried, 17,883,776. Dry Dock and East Broadway Line, receipts, $1,275,624, against $576,459, and carried 15,526,160. Eighth Avenue Line, $760,940, as against $678,222. Belt Line, $260,-, 096; expenses, $358,069; carried 13,570,955. Avenue C Line, receipts amounted to $220,082, against $9,506, and carried 2,399,710, and the Bleecker Street Line showed total receipts of $257,704, as against $242,130, and carried 3,087,191 passengers.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF RAILWAYS—THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION AND THE QUESTION OF EXPEDIENCY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The following is the full text of the report submitted to the House of Representatives to-day by Mr. McCrary, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee on Railways and Canals:

REPORT.

The Committee on Railways and Canals to whom was referred House bill No. 1,210: "A bill to regulate commerce by railroad among the several States," have had the same under consideration, and reported the accompanying amendment thereto in the nature of a substitute, and recommend its passage: In the judgment of the committee the measure of legislation now proposed is so important as to make proper a statement, in the form of a report to the House, of some of the principal grounds which it is believed not only justify but demand its adoption. Without repeating in detail here the provisions of the bill, it is enough for our present purpose to say that it asserts the right and duty of Congress to regulate inter-State commerce as carried on by railroad, and prescribes as one of the regulations thereof that the charges of persons engaged in such commerce for carrying freight and passengers shall in all cases be fair and reasonable. Of the details of the bill we do not speak here, because these can well enough be discussed elsewhere. Suffice it to say that their purpose is (and we think them well adapted to it) to adopt and enforce, under suitable penalties, as one of the rules or regulations concerning commerce carried on by railroads among the States, the taking of no more than fair and reasonable toll or compensation. Before any discussion of details, it is necessary to consider and determine, first, whether the end thus sought can be attained by a constitutional act of Congress; and, secondly, whether, if constitutional, it is expedient. Let us consider these questions in their order.

I.—THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.

Among the powers expressly conferred upon Congress by section 8 article 1 of the Constitution, is the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes." In considering the question whether, under this provision, Congress has power to pass the bill reported, it will be unnecessary to inquire as to the nature and extent of the power conferred by this provision upon Congress. It will not be denied that this clause of the Constitution confers upon Congress by express words power to legislate upon the general subject of the regulation of commerce among the several States. It is not a negative provision: it does not declare what power Congress shall not have; it is not merely prohibitory. It is affirmative. It declares that Congress "shall have power," &c. In order to show that this provision of the Constitution authorizes Congress to pass the bill reported, it is necessary to establish the following propositions: 1. That the "commerce among the several States" which may be regulated by Congress, includes commerce carried from State to State by railroads. 2. That to regulate the charges for carrying freight or passengers upon inter-State railroads so as to limit them to what is fair and reasonable, and prevent extortion, is a legitimate exercise of the power to regulate such commerce. These propositions are abundantly supported both by reason and authority. The term "commerce," as employed in the Constitution, undoubtedly means intercourse and exchange both of persons and property between different States and communities. It refers to the commerce itself, and not to the particular manner in which it is carried on. It could be held to apply to the latter, and if it could be shown that the constitutional provision in question was confined in its operation to commerce to be carried on by the same mode in existence when the Constitution was adopted, all commerce among the several States might escape regulation by abandoning entirely the vehicles in use in 1787. In this way the plain provision of the Constitution might be nullified if this construction of it could be sustained. Upon this subject, Judge Redfield, in his able and exhaustive work on the law of railways, has this to say:

The natural import and construction of the terms of the Constitution would seem to admit of little doubt, judging from the language merely. The meaning of the word "commerce," at the time the Constitution was adopted, must have been definitely settled and well enough understood. The word is undoubtedly derived from the Latin *commercium*, which is found almost in its original form in most of the languages of modern Europe. It means, in general terms, trade, traffic, intercourse and exchange, both of persons and commodities. It is more nearly synonymous with traffic than with any other word in the language, probably its great natural division, for ages, having been foreign and inland. The regulation of all the former and that portion of the latter which extended beyond the limits of a single State was, and probably was designed by organic law of our National Government, secured to the nation, and the remainder was naturally left to the particular State where it exclusively existed. It is obvious that the purpose of the provision was not to be confined to future commerce carried on in the same mode it was then; i. e. by ship and boat navigation propelled exclusively by wind. If that had been so the provision could not have been applied to the vast portion of commerce now carried on by steam power, which has already become very considerable, and is constantly increasing in a rapidly advancing ratio. The fact that the entire subject of regulating all commerce among the different States, including all the means and appliances by which it was carried on, was committed to Congress, and that, thereafter, the States were to have no concurrent legislation upon the subject of the same, would seem to reduce the question of regulating inter-State railway traffic to the single inquiry whether it forms any portion of the commerce of the country which was subject to be regulated at all. Those who assume to argue that Congress has no power to regulate the traffic upon these extended lines of railway, reaching from one end of the Union to the other, must, if they argue the question fairly, either say the traffic on these extended lines of railway, amounting to many millions annually, probably ten times as much as the entire commerce of the country at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, is not commerce at all, or, if it be, is not subject to any regulation or control whatever. For it is certain the States have neither the power nor capacity to regulate to any purpose, or with any efficiency, this interstate railway traffic. It must, then, came under the control of Congress or be left to its own devices and impulses—an experiment not yet tried in any other country.'—Redfield on Railways, pp. 720, 722.)

In the great case of Gibbons vs. Ogden, 9 Wheat., 1, which arose and was decided in 1824, when steam navigation was in its infancy, it was held that commerce comprehended navigation as well as intercourse and traffic, and no doubt was expressed as to the right of Congress to regulate it when carried on by an agency not known when the Constitution was adopted, to wit: the power of steam. On the contrary, the power to regulate inter-State and foreign commerce, when carried on by means of steam vessels, was distinctly asserted, and if extended to steam vessels, to what extent and upon what principle was left unknown when the Constitution was adopted? The opinion in this case (Gibbons vs. Ogden) was delivered by Chief Justice Marshall, and it discussed so ably the very question we are now considering, viz., the nature and extent of the power given to Congress to regulate commerce, that we feel constrained to quote from it as follows:

"The subject to be regulated is commerce, and our Constitution being, as was aptly said at the bar, (by Mr. Webster,) one of enumeration and not of definition, to ascertain the extent of the power, it becomes necessary to settle the meaning of the word. The counsel of the appellee would limit it to traffic, to buying and selling, or the interchange of commodities, and do not admit that it comprehends navigation. This would restrict a general term applicable to many objects to one of its significations. Commerce undoubtedly is traffic; but it is something more; it is intercourse. It describes the commercial intercourse between nations and parts of nations in all its branches, and is regulated by prescribing rules for carrying on that intercourse."

And again:

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THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINES.

—*The Atlantic Monthly* fully justifies the opinion entertained by its friends that it would in no measure deteriorate in the hands of its new publishers. The present number contains a series of articles of solid merit, although we regret to miss the continuation of Prof. Agassiz's papers on "Evolution." There is, however, an interesting continuation by Theodore Lyman, with some recollections of the lamented zoologist, which are of historical value. One point only strikes us as peculiar. Referring to M. Agassiz's coming to this country, the writer says "He was not spurred by failure, for already his reputation had been made by his great monographs on the glaciers and fossil fishes. He came, perhaps, in a spirit of adventure and curiosity." But the *Système Glaciare* was first published in 1847, if we are not mistaken, although for ten years previously, through the Helvetic Society, M. Agassiz had made his theories known. He came to Boston first in 1846 with a twofold object—to lecture and to fulfill a mission intrusted to him by the Prussian Government. It was for retiring from the latter that some people have criticised his conduct; but the Prussian Government released him from his engagement, and it cannot be said that the intention of that Government in appointing him to conduct certain investigations in zoology and geology has not been served. It is to Prof. Bache, the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, more perhaps than to any one else, that we owe the fact of M. Agassiz taking up his residence in America. In some chapters of autobiography Mr. Robert Dale Owen gives us a lively picture of some of his experiences as United States Minister at Naples. When the reader is compelled reluctantly to part from Mr. Owen in this pleasant record of the past, he may well turn to the guidance of Mr. H. James, Jr., who will lead him intelligently through "A Chain of Italian Cities," and give him much excellent advice and useful information about some places that are not too well known. Thence he may pass into the guardianship of W. J. Armstrong, and, leaving the shores of the Italian Peninsula, go eastward for a glimpse "over Ilium and Ida," and be entertained on the way with some cheerful gossip inspired by old Greece. "I rested," Mr. Armstrong tells us, "in the rude clay cabin of a Musselman, who assured me—falsely, I think—that I was the first Frank who had visited Boumarbashi—old Troy—for five years. The next morning I rose to see some Greek women, whose huts were also on these premises, washing their garments in the fountains alleged to be those described by Homer as the sources of the Scamander. It was the exact scene of the *Iliad*. The

——"Washing troughs of well-wrought stone—where erst the wives of Troy
And daughters fair their choicest garments washed
In peaceful times, ere came the sons of Greece."

The spirit of the place, now a solitude, but full of the richest memories, and still presenting many of the manners of which Homer sang, has put a warmth of tone and picturesque coloring into Mr. Armstrong's sketch which render it one of the most agreeable in an unusually genial selection of contributions. "Prudence Palfry," by T. B. Aldrich, progresses well; and John G. Whittier has recalled a momentous event in the history of slavery with a graphic account of the convention held in 1833 at Philadelphia. It is pleasant to look back, now that the great struggle is over, upon those early efforts of the good men whose courage and faith in their cause enabled them to do battle against what must then have seemed to many people insuperable difficulties. The poetical contributions this month are of more than average merit. They are contributed by Lucy Larcom; Will Wallace Harney, Celia Thaxter, J. T. Trowbridge, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, the last of whom gives a characteristic ballad of the "Boston Tea Party." Besides other articles which we have not room to mention, a large space is devoted to recent literature, art, and music, notices of which go to complete a very excellent number.

—*Harper's Magazine* is exceptionally prolific in illustrations, and marked also by the varied and useful character of its contents. In some "Notes About Pottery and Porcelain" we have a capital article on a very entertaining subject, and some most effective engravings, which well display the character of works of both ancient and modern times. So far as is possible in the limited space of a magazine paper, the writer has supplied a very complete treatise, full of useful details, touching upon all the more prominent features of the history of ceramic art, and furnishing a good stimulus to a deeper study of it. Members of the Methodist Church will read with satisfaction a notice of the Wesleys, in connection with a brief record concerning the City Road Chapel, where John Wesley gave his latest ministrations, and where he was buried. Taken with a paper on a similar subject in another magazine, we have this month, by a little coincidence, a somewhat detailed portraiture of the founder of Methodism. The present contribution, which is by Mr. Eugene Lawrence, is well illustrated with portraits of the Wesleys, and of the interior of the chapel and the tomb. It will, therefore, be specially valued by members of the communion in America. Mr. Charles Nordhoff has an interesting contribution, with many additions to our previous knowledge, concerning the Columbia River and Puget Sound; and in connection with it must be read an anonymous poem, entitled a "Legend of the Cascades," the tradition in which comes from the neighborhood of the Columbia. We use the word "poem" advisedly, for, as a literary production, it merits the application; but we are glad, too, to see these Indian stories preserved. It is none too soon to gather them up, for they form a valuable insight into ethnological science which, with the disappearance of Indian tribes, must be lost beyond revovery if they are not collected now. Walt Whitman publishes what we are justified in terming a characteristic production. But the beauty of it is beyond the reach of our perception. If an unknown writer had penned it, we doubt if we should ever have seen it where it is. The most important contribution in this number is one by Mr. Edwin De Leon on "The New South." The author rather loses sight of the other sources of cotton supply which have recently made the mills of Europe less dependent upon our Southern produce than they were before the war, but he furnishes a great amount of practical information, and draws a most hopeful picture, not only of the future, but of the present condition of that part of the South which comes under his immediate notice. "Virginia, Georgia, and Texas are in the advance. Their example, and those of Alabama and South Carolina, will lead their sisters into the same paths, and a self-sustaining, self-supporting South be substituted for the cotton kings' exclusive domain." The contributions of a lighter tone contain nothing that deserves special mention; but in the miscellaneous matter at the end, which in many forms is well known to, and always appreciated by, readers of *Harper's*, there are some features which are unusually attractive.

—Although the *Galaxy* offers nothing exceptionally striking, there are several articles that will repay perusal. If not brilliant, they are not devoid of interest or literary merit. Gen. Custer continues his "Life on the Plains," of which we have before had occasion to speak with favor; and Mr. Justin McCarthy, wisely abstaining from personalities about noted foreigners, gives us two more chapters of "Linley Rochford." It is too early yet to form anything like a conclusive judgment upon this work; but, as far as it goes, it promises to be the best novel which Mr. McCarthy has written. Under the title of "Views Abroad," Mr. Albert Rhodes has given us an admirable insight into the life of the chiffoniers of Paris, a class whose occupation no word in our language accurately defines. If we call them rag-pickers we come nearest to a definition, but we indicate only a part of their business. They are a people whom the most unobservant traveler in the French capital can hardly fail to have noticed, but their mode of life and organization are an interesting study. Into some of the mysteries of this Mr. Rhodes pleasantly leads us, and he graphically describes many of the chiffonier's peculiarities, not excepting the way by which they gratify their fondness for the dance. In the ball-room devoted to their use in the chiffonier's quarter, a low rail marks off the space devoted to the dancers, two sous being the charge for admission to each couple.

"A half-dozen policemen are stationed in different parts of the room, and their uniform in this place is a pleasant thing for the eye of the visitor to dwell upon. Within the railing the dancing proceeds with energy, the charge being two sous for each dance for each couple, the man naturally defraying the expense. There are instances, however, where the woman, tired of her rôle as a wall-flower, furnishes the money to some needy cavalier. The person who receives the two sous is a man of authority who stands in the centre of the ball-room floor, inviting all in a loud voice to come forward and participate in the Terpsichorean entertainment. At this, an irreverent thought enters my mind of the revivalist preacher calling upon the brethren and sisters to come forward to the mourners' bench. 'Avances, avances, Messieurs et Mesdames, on va commencer,' cries this man. 'Ca va être rigolo—une musique désopilante; avances!' When the dancing is under way, whether waltz or quadrille, the music stops and the dance-stimulator collects the two sous from each couple, which rather indicates a want of confidence in the solvency of the dancers."

In an article on John Wesley, Mr. Alfred H. Guernsey displays himself as an enthusiastic admirer of the founder of Methodism. The proposal to place a monument to the memory of Wesley in Westminster Abbey leads Mr. Guernsey to the conclusion that the world moves, and he anticipates the time when the leader of the English great rebellion will have a statue in the Houses of Parliament. But the world moves faster than Mr. Guernsey thinks; for if he ever should visit the palace at Westminster he will there see a statue in marble of Oliver Cromwell, and he will learn, if he wishes, how many years it has been there. In the meanwhile he writes well of Wesley. There are more linguistic notes by Mr. R. G. White, and a good story by Francis Ellington Loop, a writer who will probably be better known among us. Mr. Richard B. Kimball, contributes a paper which either he, or the editor, or the printer, finds it difficult to name. The index tells us that it is upon Democratic institutions, but the text declares that it is upon aristocratic institutions. We are not sure that either title would not do, but that in the index seems the more applicable, for, after all, we acknowledge no aristocratic institutions, although some of those we have may, as the author believes, be gradually assuming the worst features that are often attributed to the institutions of aristocratic countries. Mr. Kimball does not propose a remedy for the tendency which he deplores; he is content for the present to discuss the subject. Mr. Junius Henri Browne discourses upon the friendship of women. We believe he is a little mistaken as to the popular opinion upon the subject, but if he is, he fully makes up for it by the soundness of his judgment afterward, although we should not like to commit ourselves to all he says.

—*Lippincott's Magazine* presents us with the first installment of a Scotch novel by George Macdonald. It is very Scotch, but promises to be very good. If American readers can overcome the abundant peculiarities of dialect, they will find it well worth following. The first few lines, as follows, indicate its character in the one respect, and introduce us to Miss Horn, a well-drawn character:

"'Na, na; I hae nae feelin's, I'm thankfu' to say. I never kent ony guid come o' *them*. They're a terrible sicht i' the gait.'

Nasebody ever thocht o' layin' 't to your chairge, mem.

'Deed, I aye had enench adu to du the thing a had to du, me to say the thing 's nasebody wad du but myself. I hae had nae leisur' for feelin's an' that,' insisted Miss Horn.

But here a heavy step descending the stair just outside the room attracted her attention, and, checking the flow of her special perforee, with three ungainly strides she reached the landing.

'Watty Witherspail! Wattie!' she called after the footsteps down the stair.

'Yes, mem,' answered a gruff voice from below.

'Wattie, when ye feel the bit boxie, just pit a hemmer an' a puckle nails i' yer pooch to mend the hen-house door. The tane maun be atten't till as weel's the tither.'

The bit boxie' was the coffin of her third cousin, Griselda Campbell, whose body lay in the room on her left hand as she called down the stair. Into that on her right Miss Horn now re-entered, to rejoin Mrs. Mellis, the wife of the principal draper in the town, who had called ostensibly to condole with her, but really to see the corpse."

Mr. Will Wallace Harney has a somewhat striking contribution of a psychological character, entitled "*A Western Scerese.*" He instances many curious examples of apparently prophetic inspiration, but the main feature of the paper is that referred to in the title, and it is worth reading. Mr. Harney tells us that two minds are en *rapport* when one reflects the other independently of any artificial method of communication. He quotes, also, the French definition: "Minds in habitual collision acquire a duality of action, by which the sensorium receives reciprocal impressions, independently of communication through speech or sign." But he ought to have covered the ground more completely. Mental coincidence is frequent. A discovery made at the same time by two investigators, working and thinking independently of each other, has been of frequent occurrence. If the explanation be easy, it is also more than an explanation, for it is a step toward a clearer conception of the nature of the other condition. Mr. Harney might profitably resume the subject. Thus far he has made a most amusing paper out of it. The illustrations in Mr. Strahan's "New Hyperion" this month surpass the preceding in exquisite humor and drollery. Several of them are inimitable specimens of quaint representations of incidents in life, without excessive or vulgar caricature. The literary portion fully sustains the interest of previous installments of this work, and is here and there studded with sparkling points of satire and quiet fun. The Empress Josephine is one of the few characters in history who at all times stirs a chord of sympathy and interest. A description of the Chateau Malmaison, by Marie Howland, supplies an opportunity for another delicate tribute to the memory of Napoleon's injured wife, and will contribute to do her further honor, if any be possible in the estimation of mankind. Under the title of the "Two Marquises," Mr. Reginald Wynford writes a lively paper relasting chiefly to the late Marquis of Hertford; but he supplies, unintentionally we presume, an argument which will be little liked by those who denounce the laws of primogeniture and entail. There are also contributions by the author of *Quisters*, by George H. Boker, S. C. Clarke, Louis A. Roberts, Francis Asheton, &c. All are interesting, and none are dull. Geniality seems to be the leading principle aimed at in this magazine, always combined with high literary merit, and the present number is more than usually excellent.

THE SANITARY BUREAU.

The number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the week ending Jan. 17, was 1,640. Two cases of small-pox were removed to the hospital by the Ambulance Corps. Permits were given to the consignees of twenty-eight vessels to discharge cargoes. Eighty-six cases of scarlet fever, nine cases of typhoid fever, twenty-three cases of measles, sixty-one cases of diphtheria, and six cases of small-pox were received during the week.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE—JAN. 20

SALES BEFORE THE CALL—10 A. M.

900 Western Union... 76⅞ 900 Lake Shore..... 79⅜
300 do..... 76⅝ 400 do..... 80⅛
900 do..... 76⅜ 3400 do..... 80⅜
3300 do..... 76⅝ 900 do..... 80⅞
800 do..... 76¼ 1000 do..... 80⅝
800 do.....s3. 76¼ 900 do..... 80⅜
300 do..... 76⅜ 900 do..... 80⅛
700 do..... 76 2700 do..... 80⅜
700 do.....c. 76⅛ 2100 do..... 80¼
500 do.....s3. 76¼ 500 do..... 80⅜
200 Erie..... 49¼ 1000 do.....c. 80
200 N.Y.C. & H....c. 103 600 do..... 80
700 do.....103⅛ 600 do.....c. 80⅛
500 do.....103¼ 100 do..... 80¼
900 do.....103⅜ 1600 do..... 80
100 do.....103⅛ 2300 do..... 80⅜
100 do.....c.103⅛ 100 do..... 80¼
200 do.....s3.103⅛ 800 North-western.. 61
100 do.....b3.103¼ 600 do..... 61¼
100 Rock Island..... 105 200 do..... 61⅜
300 do..... 105¼ 100 do..... 61⅝
100 do..... 105¼ 100 do.....b3. 61¼
200 do.....s.105 100 do..... 61¼
50 do..... 104⅝ 100 Han. & St. Jo..... 32
50 Pac. Mail..... 42⅜ 100 do..... 32¼
900 do..... 42¾ 2300 Un. Pacific..... 38
100 do..... 42⅜ 1000 do..... 35⅜
500 do.....c. 42⅝ 1600 do..... 35
400 do..... 42¾ 600 do..... 34⅞
900 do.....b3. 42½ 500 do.....c. 34⅝
200 do.....s3. 42¾ 2000 do..... 34⅞
200 do..... 42¾ 2000 do..... 35
300 Ohio & Miss..... 34½ 1000 do.....s3. 35⅛
do..... 34¾ 1800 do..... 35
300 Tol. & Wab..... 54⅛ 1000 do.....s3. 35⅛
400 do..... 54⅜ 300 do.....b3. 35¼
700 do..... 54 2700 do..... 35⅛
200 do..... 53⅞ 200 Bos. H. & Erie..... 3
100 do..... 53⅝ St. Paul..... 49½
100 do.....s3. 53⅝ 300 do.....s3. 49¾
300 do..... 54⅜ 300 do..... 49¼
200 C., C. & I. C..... 31⅝ 300 St. Paul Pref..... 72¾
400 do.....b10. 31½ 200 do..... 72½
100 do..... 31¾ 400 do..... 72
100 H. & St. Jo. Pref.. 41¼ 100 do.....s3. 72¼

GOVERNMENT STOCKS—10:15 AND 11:30 A. M.

$500 U. S. 5-20 C., '65..... 116⅛
1,000 do.....12. 116⅛
500 U. S. 5-20 C., '65, new.. 115⅞
68,000 do.....12. 115⅝
15,000 U.S.5-20C. '67.117⅜
5,000 do.. small. 116¼
10,000 U. S. 5-20 R., '65.....b. c.116

FIRST BOARD—10:30 o'CLOCK A. M.

$2,000 Cal. 7s.....b. c.110
1,000 Tenn. 6s, old.. 80
2,000 do..... 80½
6,000 Missouri 6s.. 93
1,000 B'klyn 6s, W. L. 92
1,000 Alb. & Sus.1st.100
10,000 Mich. Cen. 7s. 94
1,000 C. & T. 1st 8s. 94
4,000 Cen. P. G. bds. 96¼
3,000 do..... 96⅜
4,000 do..... 96⅝
1,000 Un. Pac. 1st.. 94
4,000 do..... 94⅝
5,000 do..... 94⅞
10,000 do..... 95
20,000 U. P. 7s, L. G.. 80½
5,000 do..... 80¾
15,000 do..... 81
2,000 U. P. 10s, inc. 76¾
6,000 do.....b. c. 76
4,000 D., L. & W. 1st.101
2,000 do. W. 1st, 8s. 96
2,000 Pac. Mail..... 42½
8,000 North Mo. 1st. 80
7,000 do..... 79⅜
2,000 C. & N.W.in.bs. 96
7,000 C. & N.W. Con. coup. G. bs..... 85½
20,000 do..... 85¼
3,000 M. & St.P.7s.G. 87
1,000 M. & St. P. 1st. Le C. Div..... 91½
1,000 M. & St. P., H. & D. Div..... 80
5,000 St. L. & I.M.2d. 82½
5,000 Mor. & Es.1st.105
1,000 Mor. & Es. 2d. 101⅜
5,000 E. H. & R. 1st, b3.
10,000 do..... 30
5,000 C., C. & I.C.1st. b. c..... 85
9,000 W. U. Tel. 7s.. 96
3,000 D. & H. R. bs.
8,500 Ches. & O. 1st. 6% 100¼
6,000 L. & N.Con. '98. 90
20 Bank St. of N. Y.. 107
5 Market Bank..... 103
100 Bruns. C. L. b. c. 76
300 W. U. Tel.....b. c. 76⅛
200 do.....76⅜
200 do.....s3. 76¼
1400 do..... 76⅛
200 do..... 76⅜
100 do..... 76⅝
100 do..... 76⅞
200 do.....c. 76⅝
100 do..... 76⅞
20 Amer. Express..... 61¼
50 do..... 60½
200 Harlem..... 125
300 do.....b. c. 125½
200 Panama..b. c.b3.116
20 do..... 115¼
100 Pacific Mail...b.c. 42⅛
200 do..... 42⅜
200 do..... 42⅝
300 do..... 42¾
200 do.....s3. 42⅝
200 do.....b3. 43
400 do..... 42⅞
100 do..... 43
100 do..... 42⅝
200 do..... 42⅜
100 do..... 42⅝
200 do..... 42⅞
400 do..... 43
100 do..... 42⅞
100 do..... 43
100 do..... 42⅝
200 do..... 42⅜
100 do..... 42⅝
100 do..... 42⅞
100 do.....b10. 42⅝
40 do..... 43
500 N.Y.C. & H.b.c.s3.103⅛
400 do.....c.103⅜
500 do.....b3.103⅛
200 do.....s3.103⅜
300 do.....s3.103⅛
100 do.....103⅜
200 do.....s3.103⅛
500 do.....b3.103⅜

SALES BEFORE THE CALL—12:30 P. M.

50 West. Union..... 76⅝
300 do.....c. 76⅞
1000 do..... 76⅝
800 do.....b3. 76⅜
500 do.....c. 76⅜
900 do..... 76⅝
200 do.....s3. 76⅞
100 do..... 76⅜
100 do..... 76⅝
300 do.....s3. 76⅜
200 do..... 76⅝
700 do..... 76⅞
1000 do..... 76⅝
400 do..... 76⅞
200 Pac. Mail..... 42⅜
1500 do..... 42⅛
1200 do.....b3. 42⅜
100 do..... 42⅝
200 West. Union..... 76⅛
1200 do..... 76⅜
400 do..... 76⅛
700 do..... 76⅜
300 do..... 76⅝
200 do..... 76⅛
400 do..... 76⅜
100 do.....s3. 76⅛
100 do.....n.t. 76⅛
100 do..... 76⅞
100 Harlem..... 125
200 N.Y.C. & Hud....103⅜
400 do.....103⅝
500 do.....b3.103⅜
100 do.....b3.103⅜
200 North-western... 61¼
100 do..... 61⅜
100 do.....b3. 61⅛
300 Union Pac.....b3. 35⅝
200 do..... 35⅞
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do..... 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅞
100 do.....s3. 35⅜
100 do..... 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do.....s3. 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do..... 35⅝
100 do.....s3. 35⅜
100 do..... 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do.....b3. 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do..... 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do..... 35⅝
100 do..... 35⅜
100 do.....

The New York Times.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 1874.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Lucia di Lammermoor, (English Opera,)—Miss Kellogg, Mr. Theo. Habelmann.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—Led Astray—Miss Rose Eytinge, Mr. Stuart Robson. Matinée at 1:30—Wilkins Micawber, Belles of the Kitchen, &c.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.—Money—Mr. Lester Wallack, Mr. John Brougham, Miss J. Lewis.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—Led Astray—Miss Rose Eytinge, Mr. Stuart Robson.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.—Femme de Feu—Mrs. J. B. Booth, Mr. Joseph Wheelock.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.—Humpty Dumpty Abroad—Mr. G. L. Fox, Miss Fanny Hayward.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.—Man and Wife—Mr. D. H. Harkins, Geo. Clarke, Miss Ada Dyas.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Vaudeville and Novelty Entertainment—Ned Buntline and others. Matinée at 2.

THEATRE COMIQUE.—Varieties—Mr. Hart, Mr. Harrigan, Snow Brothers. Matinée at 2.

BIBLO'S GARDEN.—The Belles of the Kitchen—The Vokes Troupe.

THE COLOSSEUM.—Cyclorama of London and Paris—Curiosities—Afternoon and evening.

WOOD'S MUSEUM.—Dramatic Performance afternoon and evening. Curiosities.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.—Farces, Singing, Comicalities—Messrs. Unsworth, N. Seymour, and others.

STEINWAY HALL.—Old Folks Concert.

ROBINSON HALL.—Vocal and Instrumental Music—The Piccaninnies—Afternoon and evening.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

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The Sunday Edition, per annum..... 2
The Semi-Weekly Times, per annum..... 3
The Weekly Times, per annum..... 2

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When the names of subscribers are required to be written upon each paper of the club at one post-office address, ten cents for each copy additional to the above rates.

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New-York City.

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NOTICE.

We cannot notice anonymous communications. In all cases we require the writer's name and address, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot, under any circumstances, return rejected communications, nor can we undertake to preserve manuscripts.

FOR SALE.—*A six-cylinder Hoe Press, recently in use in this office, in good order, will be sold cheap. Apply at the Counting-room, Times Office.*

The French Cabinet has been finally sustained in wresting from France all but the last remnant of municipal liberty, by a majority of 43 votes. It may be confidently predicted that the majority of the Mayors nominated by the Government will not only have a somewhat uneasy time of it, but will fail to exercise anything like the political influence which is expected from them. The next attack of the party of reaction will doubtless be on the integrity of universal suffrage. They have already indicated the scope of their policy under this head, but the struggle of carrying it out will be all the more difficult from the fact that no Bonapartist can afford to join the Government in their next attack on the national liberties. Meanwhile France quietly elects Republican representatives as the opportunity presents itself, and calmly bides her time. While prudence and self-restraint continue to prevail in the Republican councils the Republic runs no serious danger.

It is announced that a resolution will soon be introduced by Senator Anthony to prohibit the printing in the *Congressional Record* of speeches not actually delivered. The *Record* is voluminous and costly enough when it contains nothing more than the real proceedings of the two Houses. It should not be swelled in size and cost merely to delude the constituents of certain members into the belief that their representatives have delivered orations on the floor of Congress. The practice of printing speeches which have never been delivered in the official proceedings is in every respect a bad one, and it cannot be stopped too soon. It has long been evident that it cannot be stopped unless it is positively prohibited by the rules, and the resolution of Senator Anthony should, therefore, be adopted by both Houses, although it appears to be intended to be applicable only to the Senate.

Credit must be given the State Senate for the action taken yesterday on the constitutional amendments, and especially on the fifth article. Senators Robertson and Bradley assumed the correct position in declaring that whatever might be the decision of the people on this article, it was the duty of the Legislature to submit it for their acceptance or rejection. Mr. Bradley, who is a sensible Democrat, went further, and spoke heartily in favor of the principle of the amendment, for which he is entitled to the commendation of all friends of reform. We are glad to find Mr. Ganson, one of the leading Democrats of the State, also recorded in its favor, but the general Democratic antipathy to reform could not be overcome, and of the ten who voted against the amendment, eight were Democrats. We have heretofore called attention to this article, and the public are aware that it makes radical changes in the Executive branch of the State Government by taking from the people the election of all State officers, except the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Controller. It is apparent that nearly all the Democrats and some Republicans intend to wage an active warfare against this amendment, both in the Legislature and out of it, and it is in consequence in some danger of defeat. But the Legislature should, nevertheless, afford the people an opportunity to accomplish the reforms if they so desire.

Chicago must be classed among the most unfortunate or improvident of cities. Yesterday it was again visited by a serious fire which destroyed property valued at over $500,000, and which for a time caused some apprehensions for the safety of the city. Once before since the great disaster of 1871 the city was threatened with destruction, when, some time ago, a fire swept over several blocks on the West Side. These repeated calamities ought to convince the people of Chicago that they should use increased precautions against this danger in the future. It may be that they can afford to have large portions of their city disappear in flame and smoke at short intervals, but a more economical community would by this time have concluded that the money thus wasted might be used to better advantage in maintaining an extensive fire department. We are told that it was twenty minutes before any engines reached the second fire yesterday, because they were all engaged at the first. This fact contains a warning which should not be neglected by Chicago, or any other of the large cities. Common prudence demands that no part of a city should ever be left wholly unprotected. The example which the New-York Fire Department has set in this respect might be followed with profit everywhere.

The Twenty-first Assembly District, having determined that there shall be no mistake made about its character, yesterday elected Sullivan to the Assembly by 904 plurality over Crary and 380 over Allen. After this it is not worth while for any decent man to offer to serve the Twenty-first District, either in the Assembly or elsewhere. Mr. Allen being a man of spotless life and reputable associations, was naturally hindmost in the race in a district which did its full part in electing such a man as Hugh Moore to the State Senate, and wallowed in the mire of political degradation in order that it might honor the convict Genet. In a partisan view the result of the election is not of the slightest consequence, but it is a proof that the elective franchise can be put to strange uses when a candidate like Mr. Allen obtains only 1,721 votes in a total of 6,591. After making such a record as this, the district need not fear that any appeals will hereafter be made to its intelligence and virtue.

Two cases of considerable importance to the people of the State were decided by the Court of Appeals yesterday. Both were in relation to contracts awarded by the Canal Board, the prices under which were raised by legislative sanction, either while the work was in progress or after it had been completed. Payment was refused by the State Auditor, acting under the advice of the late Attorney General, on the ground that the raising of prices was unconstitutional, being in conflict with that section of the Constitution providing that all contracts should be let to the lowest bidder. The Court of Appeals has, however, decided in a sense adverse to this opinion, affirming the power of the Legislature to raise prices under a canal contract. As the payment of many thousands of dollars of claims against the State Treasury depends upon the establishment of this rule, the people ought not to require much prompting to keep a very sharp watch over the exercise of the legislative prerogative in such cases.

CONGRESS AND THE RAILWAYS.

We publish this morning a very long and elaborate report from the House Committee on Railways and Canals. It is not a document showing special ability, but it is very carefully drawn, and covers a portion of the general subject pretty thoroughly. It will repay reading, since it advances very clearly the arguments on which the advocates of Federal supervision of railways rely to sustain the power of Congress in the premises, and also states with considerable force some of the arguments from expediency for the exercise of this power. The main subject to which the report relates is the determination of railway freights by Congress. It seeks to establish the power of Congress to regulate railways generally, and the specific regulation it recommends is one providing "reasonable rates."

The constitutional question is a very important and a very curious one. It involves many of the merits and demerits of a written Constitution, and its discussion brings out, with interesting distinctness, the singular wisdom of the framers of our own Constitution in their method of defining general powers. We have already tested this wisdom in a remarkable manner during our civil war. It is not possible that the framers of the Constitution could have contemplated the occurrence of the circumstances to which many of its provisions have been applied. Yet nearly all of the extremest powers exercised by Congress in the suppression of the rebellion were justified logically and in reason by the language of the Constitution. In a similar way the power of Congress over inter-State commerce has already been extended to a state of facts of which the authors of the Constitution could have formed no conception, not even the remotest or vaguest. Yet it would be difficult to find much fault with the reasoning by which the eminent Justices of the Supreme Court have gradually and with great deliberation and caution pushed this power to its present well-ascertained limits. The secret of this quality of our Constitution, which many call its elasticity, which distinguishes it from all other important instruments of the same kind, and which has given to the Federal Government a rare combination of stability and adaptability, lies in the moderation of its authors in the exercise of the power intrusted to them, and to the aversion they had to undertaking the regulation of details. While they avoided the glittering generalities with which Constitution-makers of the Latin race delight in adorning their creations, they were peculiarly sensitive to the difficulty of defining minutely the field to be occupied by the laws they enacted. They designed simply a limited number of fundamental principles, leaving to the discretion of those who might come afterward the application of these principles to the circumstances that might arise.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Committee on Railways and Canals are able to make an apparently strong argument for the power of Congress, under the Constitution, to regulate vast instrumentalities of commerce which not only were not contemplated by the framers of the Constitution, but were absolutely unknown and undreamed of in their time. We say a strong argument. We do not think it is a conclusive one. Any one who will carefully examine it will see that it is based not so much on a consideration of the intentions of the framers of the Constitution, or of the circumstances by which they were surrounded, and which must have controlled their minds in framing the enumeration of the powers of Congress, as upon a series of judicial interpretations of the Constitution. These interpretations have been progressive, and, by cautious and not very marked stages, have finally reached ground very far ahead of that which could possibly have been occupied at the formation, or even near the formation, of the Constitution. The committee very wisely avoid any very direct consideration of the immediate intent of the makers of the Constitution. But they imply that these latter, in intrusting the power to Congress to regulate commerce, had in view mainly the transportation of goods and persons between the States. Nothing, we should say, could be more difficult to sustain from the history of the time at which the Constitution was formed than this implication. The only matter in connection with inter-State commerce, which gave the Constitutional Convention serious concern, was the imposition of discriminating duties by the various States. This possibility in regard to foreign commerce, was, also, the main object of solicitude when that subject was considered. It was to prevent the practice in both cases that power was given to Congress to regulate them. The question of transportation was then an insignificant one, if, indeed, it can be said to have been a public question at all. The rights of carriers and their customers were of slight importance, and in a very great proportion of cases, carriers and buyers or sellers were identical. The fact might as well be faced boldly, that there was nothing in the minds of the Constitutional Convention that can throw any light on the present power of Congress to regulate railway freights.

Indeed, we are compelled to believe that any such power in Congress can only be derived from the Constitution by a process of interpretation which has been largely, and, perhaps, inevitably, used for many years, but which should be resorted to only with the utmost caution. This method substantially assumes that, given certain general objects of the Federal Government indicated by the Constitution, Congress is at liberty to secure these objects by any powers not prohibited by the Constitution, or not reserved to the States, or not opposed to any of the fundamental doctrines of the Constitution. It may be said, and not without a strong show of justice, that it is only by the gradual and careful exercise of this method of interpretation that our nation has been able to conduct its constantly multiplying interests under the guidance of a Constitution framed without any knowledge of many of the circumstances in which it was to be applied. But it must be obvious that too great care cannot be used in even seeming to make use of this way of reading the Constitution. It must be remembered, too, that it is not a last resort. The Constitution provides for its own amendment. Whenever it is found to be clearly deficient it can be supplemented, or if it is at any time an obvious hindrance to the progress of the nation it can be changed. It must always be a misfortune to strain it, or to appear to strain it. And, in our opinion, it is by no means certain that the proposition now submitted to Congress does not strain it.

The committee also discuss, but very imperfectly, the question of expediency. They succeed without difficulty in showing that it is expedient that we should have "reasonable rates" of freight. But they do not undertake to show the fitness of Congress to directly or indirectly determine what "reasonable rates" are.

CITY RAILWAY RELIEF.

A bill has been brought into the State Legislature for the better regulation of our street railways, and, strange to say, it is a bill in the interests of the people, and not of the monopolists. Knowing it to be so in general terms, we have already mentioned it with hopeful words; but its particular provisions have not yet been made public. The members of both Houses would do well to bear in mind that the public will look with a curious and careful eye upon the course of this bill.

The present Legislature could not do a more popular thing, or one which would give to the public a more satisfactory proof that the reign of rascality had given way to that of honesty, than the establishment of some well-considered and comprehensive system of street-railway management, which, although needed chiefly in the City of New-York, would render comparatively no less service to all the principal cities of the State. Street railways have, in fact, become so common in all large towns that it is a question worthy of consideration whether there should not be a commission established for their supervision, if not their management. There is a Board of Canal Commissioners; why not a Board of Railway Commissioners, or at least a Board of Street Railway Commissioners? There is enough to be done; the office would be by no means a sinecure. True, the State owns the canal, and it does not own the railways; but it does own the streets through which they pass. That is a point never to be lost sight of in the consideration of this subject. The city railways do not make their own roads on which to lay down their rails, as the other railways do; but, on the contrary, they are allowed to appropriate to themselves, in a certain measure, a part of the public highway, on the presumption that their doing so will be, on the whole, a public convenience.

Need we say to the long-suffering, weakly-good-natured, happy-go-lucky citizen of New-York, or of Albany, or of Brooklyn, or of Buffalo, cramped, trodden upon, alternately stifled and frozen in the street cars, how those expectations have been met, and how that convenience has been provided for? The story is old, and as wearisome as a ride from the new Post Office to the Central Park. But now, as there is to be an attempt at securing relief from our sufferings by legislative enactment, some suggestions as to the relief needed and as to the manner of attaining it are in place.

And, first, we want seats for all passengers, which, of course, implies more cars on all the routes than are now in use. To this the companies reply that they already run as many cars as can be run with convenience and safety. The assertion is untrue. For the reason that the cars are crowded so that at almost all times of the day it is difficult for a passenger to get a seat, unless he takes a car at one of the starting points, is that directly after the stream of downward travel in the morning and that of upward travel in the evening begins to fall off, the companies begin to take off cars, so that they keep the proportion between number of cars and the number of passengers still at the crowding point. This is "business" to them; but it is inconvenience and suffering to the public. It is the business of the managers of these railways to get just as large a money return as possible from as small an outlay as possible; and they are wise in their generation, these managers, and know just how to adapt their means to their ends, so that they can perform their unavoidable function of carrying their living freight with as little expense to themselves and as little regard to public comfort as possible. They would, of course, like to receive their fares without the little formality of carrying their passengers at all; but that can't quite be done; and so, with an ingenuity worthy of a better cause, they contrive to do as little as possible for the public accommodation and keep within the prescription of their charters. It is plain that if cars can be run "on minute time" or "half-minute time," as it is called, that is being started at intervals of a minute or half a minute for two or three hours in the morning and the evening, the same can be done all through the day, without any sacrifice except to the treasury of the company, and with great gain of convenience and comfort to all those passengers who use the cars, say between 10 o'clock in the morning and 5 in the afternoon, and after 6 in the evening. If the full tale of cars were kept running all through the day, passengers who traveled by them between 10 and 5, that is during seven hours of the working day, would, even under the present system, in all other respects have the seats to which they are entitled, and of which they are deprived by the taking off of cars to keep the travel up to the crowding point.

Another change, which we suggest with much confidence, would be a great measure of relief. All the cars of the principal lines now start down town from a point as near as possible to the junction of Park row and Broadway. After a careful consideration of the subject, founded upon much observation, we do not believe that this is necessary, either for the accommodation of the public, or even for the reasonable profit of the companies. On all the lines there are now two sets of passengers, those who go "through," as it is called, and those who stop at some point below Sixtieth street. The latter pay five cents, the former six; and on the Fourth Avenue Line, if they go beyond Forty-fifth street, eight cents—so that on that line a passenger pays eight cents fare who rides only from Thirty-fourth street to Forty-sixth. Under the present system, or rather lack of system, all these passengers are crowded into the same cars, whether they are "through" passengers or not. This is so, to all intents and purposes, even on the Fourth Avenue Line, notwithstanding the subdivision of its cars into the Thirty-fourth Street Line, the Station Line, and the Central Park Line; because passengers on either of the former lines are transferred to the latter. Now the fact is that, if not quite all, very much the larger number of the "through" passengers, to all intents and purposes the whole of them, take, or might conveniently take, the cars at points nearly on a line with Chatham square. It is reasonable, therefore, to suppose that (exceptions apart, of course, for rules cannot be made for exceptions) public convenience would be consulted by having two down-town starting points for most of the lines, instead of one. Let the "through" cars, which should be very strongly distinguished in color from the "way" cars, start from Chatham square, or some corresponding point for the various lines, and let the fare on these cars, *for any distance*, be the "through" fare of six cents, or, on the Fourth Avenue Line, eight. This would operate so as to separate, or nearly to separate, the "through" from the "way" passengers; it would relieve each of the crowding consequent upon the rude, unsystematic way of packing them all in indiscriminately together at one starting point; and even without legislative interference it would enable most of us to ride home sitting and in comfort, instead of standing in discomfort. It would also take away one excuse on the part of the companies—the throng of cars—for not increasing their accommodations; for the great crush is produced by the convergence of all the lines below the point that we have indicated. This we put forth as a suggestion—not dogmatically—as one way of securing relief from the greatest inconvenience of our City life. But let us have with it, or with some equivalent system, such legislative protection as will relieve us from our present humiliating and ridiculous position in this matter.

GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL.

Canada is in the throes of a general election, and the drum political is being beaten with amazing fury throughout the length and breadth of the land. The world is not exactly standing still to gaze upon the noisy struggle between Tories and "Grits," and outside of Canada there are but few people who know or care much about the issues involved in this contest. The most remarkable thing about the wordy war now being carried on in Canada is the extreme recklessness of assertion, and the highly overdone character of abuse which distinguish the journals of both parties. A leading "Liberal-Conservative" journal, which seems to have taken a leaf out of the book of the "Liberal" press of this country during the last Presidential campaign, assails its political opponents with the following choice epithets: Every single sentence of an opposition sheet "is as full of infamous fabrication as an egg is full of meat," and right-minded persons turn away from its perusal with "loathing and disgust." The editor of this sheet and his associates are "political assassins," "treacherous, disloyal, and unpatriotic;" another gentleman is a "great wind-bag, with half a dozen dishonorable actions tainting every year of his short political career;" moreover, in "striving to bolster up a rotten and filthy cause," this "blatant hypocrite" wanders hither and thither like "an ill-omened spectre," and then like a "hungry jackal in search of the filthy carrion on which he feeds." It is some comfort to be assured that the days of this monster are numbered, and that he will only be remembered as a "political abortion." This rhodomontade is wasted on Hon. Mr. Blake, who has the reputation of being one of the most reputable of Canadian politicians. To apply the rather *naïve* remark of the journal from which we have quoted in a wider sense than it intended, "if one hundredth part of what is said be true, there would be sufficient infamy in that hundredth to cause Canadians to blush with shame for their country."

It is curious to find the turgidly vituperative style of newspaper writing, which has been banished to remote settlements in this Union, existing in full luxuriance in the large cities of the Dominion. It is equally instructive to notice that imputations of corrupt motives and practices are bandied about with a freedom which almost eclipses the fame of the rowdy journals of this City. Nearly all the accusations in question take their rise from what has come to be known as the Pacific Railroad scandal. The Conservatives, to whose retreat from power the present appeal to the country is due, do not appear to be content that Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues should bear the whole odium of trading on the Pacific Railroad contract. They have accordingly built up, by the aid of a more or less slender substratum of fact, a marvelous story about a Lake Superior Ring of silver mine and land speculators, who are to sacrifice the "plighted faith of the Confederacy," to "break up the great Dominion," to sever its connection with the Empire, and to do other treacherous deeds, all for the purpose of building up American railroads and gaining unto themselves filthy lucre.

Stripped of the amazing ornaments of Canadian rhetoric, the policy of the political factions of the Dominion in this Pacific Railroad business—and there is really no other point of the slightest consequence at issue—is pretty nearly as follows. The Mackenzie Cabinet, which depends on the result of the pending election for a working majority in the Dominion Parliament, proposes to adhere to the scheme of providing means of transportation across the continent. But they have abandoned the idea of constructing a railroad over the entire distance, and propose a mixed system of railway and water communication. Thus freight would be conveyed above Lake Superior by steamer, and even between Lake Superior and Fort Garry, a distance of 430 miles, the navigable waters of the Lake of the Woods, Rainy River, and Rainy Lake, are relied upon to furnish a water route of about two hundred miles in length, requiring only a couple of locks to make it continuous. To this scheme of what the Conservatives call the "Lake Superior Ring" it is objected that it is a mere evasion of the conditions under which British Columbia consented to enter the Dominion; that, involving repeated transhipments, it would be of little value for trans-continental traffic, and that its result would be to drive the entire trade of the North-west over the American lines through St. Paul to Chicago. So convinced are the Conservatives that the Mackenzie railroad policy is in the interest of the United States corporations that they have circulated the highly-improbable story of the Northern Pacific Railroad having subscribed $750,000 to aid in securing the return of the Administration candidates. Sir John A. Macdonald apparently adheres to his great trans-continental project in its entirety, though he admits that its recent break-down will render it very difficult to carry it out for some time to come. But for the successful attack on Sir Hugh Allan's contract, the Ex-Premier maintains that the road could have been built for $30,000,000 in cash and 50,000,000 acres of land. As the Imperial Government guaranteed about $22,000,000, Sir John thinks a loan could have been effected at three per cent. All this, however, is at an end with the triumph of the perfidious "Grits." The "vast Dominion, bounded only by the North Pole and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans," is to sink into provincialism again, because it has been bereft at the same moment of the "great statesmanship" of Sir John A. Macdonald and the immeasurable prospective benefits of the Canada Pacific Railway charter.

A NEW SOCIAL DIVERSION.

Amusement for the home circle during the long Winter evenings which shall be at once rational, fresh, and varied is as desirable as it seems difficult to attain. An infinity of games have been invented for the purpose, but the great majority of them are jejune and tiresome to the last degree. Chess, of course, can never lose its charm for those who know and love it; but chess is a *tête-à-tête* affair, and rather unsociable. Whist we have never fairly naturalized, and it is, besides, open to somewhat the same objection as chess. In addition to these, billiards has the more serious defect of being possible only to a comparatively limited class and of sacrificing the fairer elements of the household to the potent and dreaded charms of woman's deadliest rival—the hateful cigar. The theatre and society, in its technical sense, are not only outside of the limited sphere we are discussing, but are or should be but occasional diversions. Americans are essentially a home-loving people, and in more northern latitudes have, during the Winter at least, many inducements of climate to keep them so. When the curtains are drawn and the lights brought on, the true epicurean will very reluctantly resign the cosy and slippered comfort of the fireside for any foreign pleasures. And this is as it should be. Whatever helps to add to the attractions of the home circle is a potent influence, exerted none the less forcibly because insensibly toward the advancement of social morality and happiness.

Apparently the difficulty we refer to has been felt in England as well as here. In a recent letter to the *Daily News* Mr. F. J. Furnivale, a name well and gratefully known to all lovers of early English literature, suggests an occupation for Winter evenings which certainly fulfills all the requirements we have mentioned. He proposes "the reading of the plays of Shakespeare in chronological order, so as to see the growth of the poet's mind and art, the host of each evening or his clever wife reading a short paper on the play; when finished to open a discussion on it." Mr. Furnivale adds that he is a member of two small clubs, which meet for this purpose on alternate Sunday and Wednesday evenings at the houses of different members, and he avers that the pleasure and profit derived from these meetings are far greater than can be got from ordinary after-dinner gatherings or *conversazioni*.

This we can very well believe, nor are we more disposed to doubt the truth of his assertion that people who are capable of adopting his suggestion will find in it "a most welcome relief from the senseless chatter and scandal of ordinary parties." The number of such people, however, we fear, must unfortunately be few. Still that is no reason why the suggestion should not be approved, and those who do champion it may console themselves for their scanty following by the comfort which Mr. Hamerton finds for the unpopularity of etching—"that it is a matter less for regret than congratulation that an art should exist safe from the baneful influences of vulgar patronage." Besides, many circles not quite up to the level of Shakespeare might begin in Morris or Tom Moore, and so work their way up through Pope and Wordsworth and Lamb's dramatic specimens to the "first poet of all time."

Again, for those who do not fancy profane literature, there is a variation in these reading parties which is said to have attained considerable vogue in certain London circles. Neat cards are issued setting forth that "Mr. and Mrs. Blank propose (D. V.) to hold a Bible reading" on such an evening "at 7:30 o'clock, when the company of friends is requested." The subject of the evening is added—Corinthians or Revelations, as the case may be—with an intimation that the reading will extend from 7:30 to 9:30, and that morning dress will be worn. This seems like a whimsical mingling of recreation and religion; but it may have its merits. It is at least worth mentioning, as showing the wide range which may be found in Mr. Furnivale's invention, and its facile adaptability to a variety of tastes.

The experiment, at all events, seems worthy of being tried. A few will find it pleasant and profitable; and those who do not may go back with all the greater relish to small talk and the Boston. It is true that if the practice ever becomes popular here in fashionable circles, there is danger that some of our belles and beaux may inadvertently learn something. But that, perhaps, is not, after all, an insurmountable objection.

AMUSEMENTS.

MISS CUSHMAN'S READINGS.

Four readings by Miss Charlotte Cushman are promised during the coming fortnight. They will take place at Steinway Hall, the first occurring on Wednesday evening; the second Saturday afternoon; the third on the Monday night following, and the last on the afternoon of the subsequent Saturday. The sale of seats for the series opens to-day. It is well to mention that these readings will be the only entertainments in which Miss Cushman will appear in New-York this season.

THE ENGLISH OPERA.

The season of English opera will be entered upon at the Academy of Music, this evening, with "Lucia." Miss Kellogg is to personate the bride of Lammermoor, and Mr. Habelmann will be the master of Ravenswood. We are glad to learn that the outlook of the season is auspicious.

THE MEIGHAN BENEFIT.

The representation for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Mr. T. W. Meighan may be attended at the Union Square Theatre this afternoon. "Micawber," with Messrs. Rowe and Mackay; "The Stage-struck Barber," with Mr. F. S. Chanfrau; and "The Belles of the Kitchen," with the Vokes Family, make up a capital bill.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

HOW MR. WAITE IS REGARDED IN HIS NATIVE COUNTY.

The following sketch of Hon. Morrison R. Waite is from the Norwich (Conn.) *Bulletin* of yesterday: "With Ohio, Connecticut is honored by the choice. Our own county was his birth-place, and our own city contains many whose intimacy with Mr. Waite, through ties of blood and friendship, had taught them long, before the country began to know and honor him, what his great qualities as a lawyer, a student, and a high-toned gentleman were. Mr. Waite was, till recently, an unknown man, at least throughout the country. In his own State, and more especially in his own town, he has been regarded for some years as a lawyer of far more than average ability. Appointed by the President to assist Gen. Cushing and William M. Evarts as counsel for our Government before the Geneva Board of Arbitration, his name was shadowed by the then greater fame of his two associates. Not so when he finished his labors there, for by an argument of almost unequaled power, force, and clearness, he attracted the general attention of the country, and was speedily thereafter acknowledged as one of the leading legal lights of the land. Those who had known Mr. Waite, however, previous to this were prepared for the brilliant effort he then made. More recently, as President of the Ohio Constitutional Convention, he has still further added to his reputation. As a lawyer, Mr. Waite's qualifications for the high position are unquestioned. Possessed of a mind keenly logical, his early training developed still more strongly its powers. His father was eminent as a lawyer, and an honored Chief Justice of our highest State Court. But by a life-long and intense application to the study he was by nature and training so admirably fitted for, and by an extensive practice at the Ohio Bar, he has perfected himself, so far as a man can perfect himself, in the knowledge of that limitless and grand study. Further than this his attention, either by choice or chance, has been turned especially to the interpretation of the many difficult questions of law underlying the Constitution, and it was no doubt his great attainments in this branch of the science which induced his appointment as counsel at Geneva. It will be with no smattering of Coke, no scanning of Blackstone and Kent, that he will take his seat. The principles of the law, and their application in the cause of justice and right, have been his study. His knowledge does not end with his brief or plea. Pre-eminent, then, in this respect are his qualifications for the high position. But the high character, the winning social qualifications, and the kindliness of heart, which with great learning combine to make the perfect Judge, Mr. Waite possesses in a high degree. The country has reason to thank Gen. Grant for this happy appointment."

NATIONAL COLLEGE ROWING ASSOCIATION.

HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 20.—Delegates to the National Rowing Association of American Colleges are arriving here. Representatives of Yale, Bowdoin, Amherst, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Harvard are already here. The meeting is at 10 o'clock to-morrow. The principal interest centres in the selection of a place for the next regatta, although it is claimed that the constitution declares that this must be decided at the annual meeting in April. The Saratoga Rowing Association have a strong delegation here working for that course. Yale is said to favor Saratoga, as the New-York colleges do, and it is thought that Wesleyan, William's, and Bowdoin will follow Yale. Harvard, Amherst, and Dartmouth oppose any course outside of New-England. Should there be a disagreement a New-England association is suggested.

THE NATIONAL BASE-BALL ASSOCIATION.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 20.—The Judiciary Committee of the National Base-ball Association met at the St. Clair Hotel to-night, three of five members being present, viz.: R. C. Hall, Baltimore; N. E. Young, Washington, and W. J. Smith, of Maryland. After hearing the charges preferred by the Philadelphia Club against the Boston Club, the committee unanimously resolved not to take action in the matter as the championship had already been awarded. In reference to Arthur Cummings, the committee thought he deserved penalty for the manner in which he left the Baltimore Club, but released him from any disability incurred thereby. Mr. Young read a paper on players betting either directly or indirectly on the game, and its demoralizing tendency, advocating the expulsion of any player guilty of it. The committee recommended that this subject be earnestly considered by the National Association at the next annual meeting.

TEXAS.

A NOMINEE FOR THE SENATE—CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S VICTORY.

GALVESTON, Texas, Jan. 20.—A petition, signed by a large number of citizens of Galveston, has been sent to Col. George Flournoy, at Austin, asking him to allow his name to be submitted to the Legislature as their nominee for United States Senator.

In honor of the event of the occupation of the Capitol and State offices by the chosen representatives of the people of Texas, a salute of 100 guns was fired this evening in the public square by the Galveston Artillery, Capt. W. F. Mott commanding. A stand was erected, and speakers addressed a large concourse of people.

THE EFFECT OF NON-INTERVENTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The following dispatch has been received here:

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 19.

Hon. G. H. Williams, Attorney General:

Your telegram, as anticipated, has had the desired effect. The complications in our State affairs have been amicably settled.

THOMAS F. PURNELL,
United States Marshal.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

EFFECT OF ABOLISHING ON THE POSTAL REVENUE—NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Postmaster General has replied to a resolution of the Senate with regard to the franking privilege. He says, had not the transmission of Congressional publications been discontinued, the rates awarded in the readjustment now being made with the railroad companies would be higher in exact proportion to the increase in the weight of the mails which the transmission of this heavy matter would have caused, whatever that increase might be. The general interests of the postal service are promoted, however, by relieving the great mail lines of the pressure caused by the carriage of the immense amount of mail matter formerly sent over them. So rapid is the increase of postal business that the through lines are taxed to their utmost capacity to carry the letter correspondence and paper matter dispatched from the commercial and publishing centres of the country. The net sales of official stamps for the next fiscal year, to cover the transmission of matter formerly sent through the mails under the franks of the heads of departments, are estimated at $2,250,000. A comparison of the receipts on four items during the quarter ended Sept. 30, 1873, with those on the same items for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, shows an aggregate increase of $1,668,445, and an increase, exclusive of official stamps, of $614,912. These figures, which do not include postage on Congressional matter, confirm the Postmaster General in the opinion heretofore expressed in a special report to Congress, under date of Jan. 12, 1871, that the cost of all free matter, if charged with the regular rates of postage, would amount to $2,543,327 annually. The Postmaster General says he has answered the questions embodied in the resolution with as much accuracy as is possible with the little material at his command. It must be remembered that the law repealing the franking privilege did not go into effect until the 1st of July last, and that the department has had the advantage of that repeal for six months only. To arrive at anything like fair conclusions on the subject, a trial of at least a year should be made, and time should be given for gathering accurate results from the entire country. Thoroughly impressed as he is with the belief that the repeal of the franking privilege was a wise measure, and will be productive of the best results in the postal service, he earnestly recommends that it be not restored until at least a fair trial can be made.

In his last report he recommended a reduction of postage on books to one cent for two ounces, which is the lowest rate now allowed by law for any kind of matter. If that suggestion should be adopted he cannot see why postage should not be paid upon Congressional documents as well as upon departmental matter by an appropriation from the Treasury. Such action would amply provide for the transmission by mail of all desirable documents to the people, and enable the department to maintain that degree of accuracy in its administration which is essential to its complete success. In the event, however, of returning to a general distribution to the people of improved field and garden seeds and public documents, he trusts he may be permitted to suggest, in view of all the facts, that the department should be empowered to arrange for their transportation, as freight, in other conveyances than mail cars, so as not to embarrass the legitimate postal business of the country, or retard the attainment of the perfection of the system, which should be the constant aim of those engaged in its management. He is firmly convinced that the practice in this respect which prevailed before the abolition of the franking privilege cannot be revived except at the expense of the important commercial and social interests and wants which the maintenance of the postal system of the country is chiefly intended to subserve. There is one restriction, however, which he never advised, and which, in his opinion, might be safely removed, and that is, the provision which forbids the free transportation of weekly newspapers within the counties of their publication, as heretofore authorized by law. The grounds upon which this recommendation is made are—first, that such papers are so evenly distributed over the entire extent of the country, and confined to lines of transit so short, that they have never been known to impede the distribution and transportation of the mails, and, secondly, that the amount of postage levied upon them, as at present collected, while affording but a trifling revenue to the department, is yet heavy enough to be severely felt by their proprietors and patrons, and to obstruct the dissemination of local intelligence. Good reasons may also be given in favor of a free exchange between newspapers.

THE CASE OF JAY COOKE & CO.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Jan. 20.—The case of Jay Cooke and Co. was heard before Judge Cadwalader, on application for further time to complete the election for the committee. After the argument, Judge Cadwalader said that after all he would like to know whether the creditors considered the committee as an enlargement of their powers over the estate, or whether it was not really a restriction upon and hampering of its administration. Since the creditors had expressed such thorough confidence in Mr. Lewis, he would say that he had conceived of a plan by which that gentleman would be chosen assignee, or, in other words, Trustee without a committee. In light of this intimation he asked whether Mr. Lewis would be assisted by a committee, or whether he would not be trammeled or retarded by those who, from the nature of things, could not be constantly with him or so familiarly conversant as he with the matter in hand. Mr. Samuel Dixon replied that if Mr. Lewis were appointed assignee and supported by a committee of creditors, he would feel much less hesitation in adopting the measures which his own judgment prompted. The Judge said that under the English system, which is similar to our own, they had no assignee or Trustee who was not a mere servant of the committee of creditors.

After obtaining the views of some individual creditors, Judge Cadwalader held the matter under advisement.

ASSEMBLING OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 20.—A special dispatch from Jackson, Miss., to the *Avalanche* of this city, says that the Legislature of that State assembled at noon to-day. J. D. Shoad, colored, of Worden, was elected Speaker of the House; H. W. Warren, Clerk, and George R. Pease, Sergeant-at-Arms. The Senate elected W. C. White Secretary. There are at least a dozen applicants for every subordinate position, and there are numerous aspirants to fill Ames' unexpired term as United States Senator.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 20.—The General Assembly convened its adjourned session in this city to-day. Gov. Howard delivered his message, reviewing the condition of the State. The State debt has been reduced $75,000 during the year, being now $2,563,500. The Governor recommends legislation for the greater protection of savings banks and for the improvement of the laws for the collection of debts.

*UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM MAR

FILTHY THOROUGHFARES.

INFORMATION FOR THE STREET-CLEANING BUREAU.

On Monday last Capt. Thorne, the Superintendent of the Street-cleaning Bureau, said to a TIMES reporter, "it would be a useless waste of money to set about to remove the snow from the streets now, the fall was so slight as to scarcely inconvenience the public," &c. With the view of ascertaining the truth of the latter part of this statement, and to find out the general condition of the various thoroughfares of the City, a TIMES reporter made a personal inspection of the streets and avenues yesterday. Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Madison, Park, and Lexington avenues were found covered with mud and the remains of the recent fall of snow. Avenues A, B, C, D, and First, Second, Third, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh avenues were in the same condition, with the addition of ashes, garbage, and the refuse matter of the kitchens. On Fifth and Madison avenues the snow was piled up in many places in immense heaps on either side of the way, making it extremely difficult for carriages to draw up before the doors of the residents of those localities.

In most of the cross-streets from Forty-seventh to Twenty-third street, with the exception of Thirty-fourth street, a single track runs through them, with piles of snow and mud on either side. The west side of Broadway, opposite Central Market, is covered with the refuse matter of the market. In West Forty-fifth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, the slush is nearly ten inches deep. On West Forty-second street, from Eighth avenue to the North River, the buildings are almost entirely tenement-houses, the occupants of which have recklessly thrown their ashes and garbage into the street for weeks past. In West Forty-first street, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, a block of tenement-houses is being erected; the materials for building them occupy fully two-thirds of the street; the small space left for the passage of vehicles is covered with slush, and almost impassable. The same street, from Tenth to Eleventh avenue, is devoted to the drainage of a row of slaughter-houses. The carts of the Forty-second and Grand Street Railroad Company were removing yesterday the snow from that part of Thirty-fourth street traversed by their line of cars. Opposite the premises No. 342 East Twenty-fifth street was a pyramid of ashes and garbage three feet in height; a similar but larger pile was supported by two trucks opposite No. 316 East Thirty-second street. Thirty-sixth street, between First and Second avenues, is entirely composed of tenement-houses, the occupants of which have thrown their ashes and garbage into the street for the past few weeks. Charlton and West Houston streets, from Varick street to the North River, are populated chiefly by families who take in washing. These people allow the slops from their washing-tubs to run across the sidewalk to the street, where it forms in puddles, sending forth an offensive odor on a warm day like yesterday. From Charlton street, on the west side, and from Fifteenth street, on the east side, to Canal street, the residents have generally performed their part of the duty of keeping the streets clean by placing proper receptacles for garbage and ashes before their residences. The streets down town are also in a miserable condition. Not only are none of them cleaned, but so far as can be ascertained not the slightest attempt has been made at cleaning them. Broadway from Canal street to the new Post Office might be better likened to a sea of mud than anything else. It is opposite City Hall Park, however, that the Corporation mud-holes reach their climax. One at the north-west corner of the new Post Office is full fifty feet long, six wide, and nearly a foot deep. Through this a string of carts and drays are continually splashing, drenching such of the luckless pedestrians as dare to come in their way, without regard to age or sex. Delicate and daintily attired ladies and children, men of business, rough-coated working men, are each and all bespattered with rigid impartiality. Above this point and just opposite the City Hall a dozen different streamlets meander across the sidewalk from the piled-up heaps of snow to the left of the Hall. Between Duane and several of the streets above the fine sandy "slush" of mingled snow and dirt has invaded the pavement to the extent of several feet. The general expression of the merchants is, "The street-cleaners have not been here for months." When they do come, they usually content themselves with sweeping the crossings. The same may be said of the streets on the west side, especially those in which a single railroad track divides the narrow passage-way, with a constant throng of carts and trucks. The snow is carefully shoveled from the rails of the "company" and piled in heaps on that portion of the roadway in most constant use. This produces a series of ups and downs, and renders locomotion about twice as costly and difficult. On the west side, streets parallel to West Broadway, Hudson, and Greenwich, where the sun shines brightly on the mud and snow during the greater part of the day, the situation is, if possible, still worse. Hummocks of snow and mud line the sidewalks, and rivulets of dirty water ripple along the railway tracks. On Greenwich street, the farmers, who come in from the country, are mulcted twenty-five cents a head by the City for the privilege of hitching their teams amid this chaos of mud and slush.

On the east side, owing to the configuration of the different streets, which rarely run directly north or south, and in other ways are not so much exposed to the sun, the general condition, though bad enough, is a little better than that of the west. On Elm and Centre, and in the region round about, snow and mud are liquid and liquid state. Henry street is lined on both sides with mud, surmounted by ice, and frozen almost to the consistency of "hard pan." A well-to-do resident of this street told a TIMES reporter that he had not seen a street-cleaner at work in six months. Lower down and near the East River, in Water and Cherry streets, the frozen filth and garbage thaws out for a short time in the afternoon, gives the miserable inhabitants a whiff of what is in store for them next Summer, and then freezes up again for the night. At the Five Points, and in the neighboring streets, a carpet of frozen mud and ice, varying in thickness from six inches to two feet, covers everything. Further down town, in the region of wholesale and financial trade, the streets are hardly any better. The familiar garbage is absent, but its place is more than filled by the added mud and dirt which a frequent traffic produces. This is gradually beaten down and shoved off to the sides by the crowd of passing vehicles, until the centre of the street is comparatively clear. As in the districts higher up, almost all work done is by private individuals, at their own expense. On Wall and some of the neighboring thoroughfares the Street Cleaning Bureau make a pretense of coming around in the night-time for the purpose of carting away the dirt. As the residents find just as much mud as ever when they return in the morning, they have learned to put little confidence in this pleasing fiction, and depend entirely on their own exertions.

Chatham square presents a reasonably clean appearance, but this it appears is due wholly to the rain, and not to Capt. Thorne. Chatham street, at its upper terminus, where it debouches into Chatham square, is in a very neglected condition. Vast quantities of mingled snow and dirt, refined by constant travel almost to the density of sand, are packed on either side of the rails, and forced to do duty as a roadway to the stream of trucks and carts constantly passing and repassing. The street is consequently lumbered up, and daily threatened with blockade. All this might be removed by a very small fraction of the $3,000 per day which the City pays for its supposed "street-cleaning." The same may be said of Church street, and other streets parallel to Broadway on the west side.

Notwithstanding the filthy condition of our thoroughfares, the pay-roll of the Street-cleaning Bureau presents a goodly array of mug positions—district inspectors, foremen, and dumping inspectors—at salaries ranging from $2,000 to $1,000. Its pernsal will show that for the month of December, the large staff were in receipt of their salaries, for doing nothing, and that only eighty-nine laborers were employed for the month. But there are 341 carts to carry away refuse, which was never removed, apparently engineered by only seventy-two drivers. In the stables are employed five men, who are superintended by a foreman and assistant foreman. There are three scow men and eight scow trimmers to navigate the magnificent fleet of dirt-boats to the dumping-ground—that is, the middle of the river. The pay-roll for the past month foots up to $74,952 17, sufficient one would think to put the streets in decent trim, but there is this fact that the money has been spent, and the question to be answered, is, What amount of work was done for it? Of the whole $74,952 17, the amount expended for labor was only $1,554 67, the charge for "laborers" being $133 50. The list which follows is interesting and suggestive:

PAY-ROLL OF THE STREET-CLEANING BUREAU.

District Inspector James Lee, No. 1 State st.....	$2,000
District Inspector John Dugan, 265 W. 33d st..	2,000
District Inspector David Bartley, 175 E. 83d st.	2,000
District Inspector Gershon Cohen, 81 Barrow st.	2,000
Superintendent Boats, Daniel M. Hyatt, 445 Hudson st.....	2,000
Deputy Superintendent Boats, Wm. S. O'Brien, 441 West 28th st.....	1,200
Superintendent Stables, Jacob Creveling, 40th st. and 6th av.....	1,200
Deputy Superintendent Stables, Denis Ryer, 520 West 54th st.....	1,000
Superintendent Machines, John Miller, 125 West 35th st.....	1,500
Chief Clerk, John B. Greene, 159 W. 41st st....	3,000
Pay-roll Clerk, Wm. A. M. Corkie, 742 3d av..	2,000
Map Clerk, John Z. O'Brien, Ashland House....	1,800
Assistant Map Clerk, Edward Dubois, 305 East 33d st.....	1,500
Assistant Map Clerk, John P. Hayden, 214 West 129th st.....	1,500
Foreman John Butterbury, No. 49 Forest st....	1,200
Foreman John Hurley, No. 96 Madison st....	1,200
Foreman John Hurley, No. 236 Greenwich st..	1,200
Foreman Joseph P. Melville, No. 170 Mott st...	1,200
Foreman Thomas Mahon, No. 9 Jones st.....	1,200
Foreman Francis Hoskin, No. 32 Mott st.....	1,200
Foreman Daniel F. Dowling, 182 East Broadway.	1,200
Foreman Edward Hallee, No. 16 Dominick st...	1,200
Foreman Thomas Moore, No. 164 Christopher st.	1,200
Foreman Edward Mulry, No. 3 Ludlow st.....	1,200
Foreman Geo. W. Chisham, No. 129 Avenue C...	1,200
Foreman Edward A. Moore, 117th st. and Av. A..	1,200
Foreman James Lumsden, No. 308 Grand st....	1,200
Foreman Frank M. Stages, No. 167 Mott st.....	1,200
Foreman Henry Kumbe, No. 58 South 6th av..	1,200
Foreman Chas. H. Delamater, 433 West 19th st..	1,200
Foreman Owen Healey, No. 246 East 10th st...	1,200
Foreman Michael Martin, No. 455 3d av.....	1,200
Foreman Henry B. Stephens, 225 East 92d st....	1,200
Foreman Christian H. Hartnecke, No. 421 West 35th st.....	1,200
Foreman Thomas Fitzsimons, No. 220 West 36th st.....	1,200
Foreman Ralph P. Barker, No. 462 8th av.....	1,200
Foreman David J. Daly, No. 507 1st av.....	1,200
Dumping Inspector David L. Robins, No. 279 Greenwich st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector Samuel M. Taylor, No. 326 West 15th st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector Archibald W. Young, No. 357 West 44th st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector Jeremiah Leaman, No. 44 Forsyth st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector Michael Brady, 445 7th av.	1,000
Dumping Inspector John Rice, No. 295 7th av..	1,000
Dumping Inspector James Irving, Jr., No. 302 East 21st st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector Michael O'Neill, No. 198 Avenue A.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector John O'Connor, No. 307 East 26th st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector George W. Parnum, No. 324 East 38th st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector Patrick Salmon, No. 424 West 24th st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector James Martin, No. 418 West 31st st.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector George Dinkelmeyer, No. 1,456 2d av.....	1,000
Dumping Inspector William Hay, 90th st. and 3d av.....	1,000
Steam-tug U. S. Grant.	
Captain, William H. Rightmeyer, No. 88 Cannon street.....	$1,200
Engineer, John Maleher, No. 308 Delancey st...	900
Fireman, Geo. Harrington, boat.....	480
Deck-hand, Maurice Roche, No. 127 Liberty st..	480
Steward, E. Van Steenberg, boat.....	480
Steam-tug William Parks.	
Captain, Joseph Kentard, No. 388 3d st.....	$1,200
Engineer, Peter Houghtaling, No. 88 Cannon st.	900
Fireman, Alonzo Ingram, boat.....	480
Steward, Thomas Christie, boat.....	480
Deck-hand, O. B. Andrews, boat.....	480
Total.....	$73,380

Report of Number of Laborers, Cart-drivers, Hired Carts, &c.

	Per Diem.	Number of Men.	Total.
Police Dept. Cart-drivers.....	$1 75	72	$126 00
Hired carts.....	3 50	341	1,193 50
Gang men.....	1 75	8	14 00
Laborers.....	1 50	89	133 50
Scow trimmers.....	2 50	8	20 00
Watchmen.....	2 00	15	30 00
Stablemen.....	2 00	5	10 00
Assistant foreman stables.....	2 50	1	2 50
Wheelwright.....	2 33½	1	2 33
Blacksmith.....	3 33½	1	2 34
Blacksmith.....	2 00	1	2 00
Horse-shoer.....	3 50	2	7 00
Harness-maker.....	2 50	1	2 50
Carpenter.....	3 00	1	3 00
Carpenter.....	2 50	1	2 50
Assistant inspectors, &c.....	2 00	6	12 00
Scowmen.....	3 00	3	9 00
Total.....			$74,952 17

A SUCCESSOR FOR GENET.

W. H. SULLIVAN ELECTED TO THE ASSEMBLY TO REPRESENT THE TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

The election in the Twenty-first Assembly District took place yesterday. It passed off very quietly, and with a result not generally looked for. The friends of Crary, the Tammany candidate, regarded his election as certain. Early in the day it became known that the contest lay between Crary and Sullivan, the latter being known as the Independent candidate, and that the chances were in favor of Sullivan. During the afternoon it was generally believed throughout the district that Sullivan would win the race. A rumor was spread during the day that Crary could not be legally elected, because his ticket did not specify that the election was to supply the place of Genet, who had fled from the City. Genet, by the way, polled one vote, and that in the Thirty-first Election District, where the returns stood Sullivan 76, Allen 99, Crary 340 and Genet 1. In the Sixth Election District Thomas Langhan, one of Crary's watchers, objected to the count, claiming for Crary five more votes than had been allowed. Considerable commotion ensued, and the Police cleared the room. In the Seventh Election District thirty-three out of the thirty-four votes cast for Crary were also protested against by Edward C. Sheehy, on the ground that Crary's ticket was headed simply "For Member of Assembly for the Twenty-first Assembly District," while according to law it should have been specified "in the place, and instead, of Henry W. Genet." In the Thirtieth Election District 121 votes were cast for Crary, but three of them were declared irregular on account of the misprinting of the tickets, and were ruled out. The following is the vote cast;

Election Districts.	Crary, Tam.Dem.	Sullivan, Ap.Hall.Dem.	Allen, Rep.	Genet's vote, 1873.
1.....	45	68	28	69
2.....	23	16	20	15
3.....	30	40	8	50
4.....	65	66	18	88
5.....	111	108	37	146
6.....	79	84	34	108
7.....	34	74	52	78
8.....	82	95	31	144
9.....	56	71	40	97
10.....	70	54	68	92
11.....	92	88	91	107
12.....	74	141	102	184
13.....	102	67	28	125
14.....	73	120	12	157
15.....	47	57	42	96
16.....	127	73	26	113
17.....	37	42	5	73
18.....	98	34	33	87
19.....	73	39	21	98
20.....	90	78	49	187
21.....	29	33	20	44
22.....	58	52	51	100
23.....	30	38	45	47
24.....	58	72	27	88
25.....	48	58	33	71
26.....	87	63	30	118
27.....	80	84	50	106
28.....	64	58	93	103
29.....	17	34	22	40
30.....	121	99	112	176
31*.....	34	76	99	98
32.....	14	60	53	72
33.....	40	77	51	85
34.....	42	189	119	210
35.....	49	65	42	101
36.....	28	108	69	122
37.....	28	97	19	104
Total.....	2,285	2,649	1,753	3,779

*In this district Genet received one vote.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH.

ACTION OF COMMITTEE OF CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMS INDORSED BY THE CONGREGATION.

A meeting was held last evening in the Clinton Avenue Congregational Church, Brooklyn, the Pastor, Rev. William Ives Budington, presiding, Flammer B. Candler acting as clerk. The meeting was held with closed doors, and several members of the press, who put in an appearance at an early hour, were sedulously excluded. There were upward of 350 members in attendance. The clerk, Mr. Candler, read the call of ten of the brethren for the meeting. The Clinton Avenue Congregational Church, it was learned, in connection with the Church of the Pilgrims, disapprove of the action of the Plymouth Church, in dropping from its membership a member against whom charges were pending, without investigation. A special committee protested, on their own account, against such action on the part of the Plymouth Church, and subsequently twenty-two members of the church disapproved of the action of the committee because they were not appointed by the church. A large amount of private correspondence ensued on the matter, and the meeting last night was held to decide what final action should be taken. The meeting assembled at 8, and did not conclude until within a few minutes of 12 o'clock, when the reporters ascertained that the following resolutions were adopted, after a lengthened series of stormy discussions, as one member who was present passingly remarked:

Resolved, That we sustain the action of a committee appointed at the meeting of this Church held according to its usages on Friday evening, Nov. 7, to confer with the Pastor and Committee of Plymouth Church in regard to alleged irregularities in their church discipline.

Resolved, That the action of the church and of the Pastor and committee in connection with the Church of the Pilgrims in the correspondence with Plymouth Church is approved and indorsed.

The following resolution was pending when the meeting adjourned:

Resolved, That it is the deliberate judgment of this church that the action of Plymouth Church, on Oct. 31, 1873, dishonors the teaching of the Bible; is in violation of congregational polity, and constitutes a case of so gross and serious a nature as to make it the duty of sister churches to seek advice of a counsel as to their duties in the premises.

A MUCH NEEDED REFORM.

For some time past Justice Kilbreth, at Jefferson Market Police Court, has been keeping a sharp lookout after a couple of shyster lawyers who hang around his court fleecing the unwary. The Judge has at last got a grip on one of these gentry, and will soon make that part of the City too hot for him. These fellows are not regularly admitted lawyers, but only have elaborate cards printed to that effect. They procure straw bail, and in fact engage in every kind of mean and nefarious business. They also pretend to parties looking for summonses or going bail for friends, that they have "special influence" with the Judge, and by hustling in front of the bench often extract a $5 bill from their victims. Justice Kilbreth announced to a crowded court yesterday that all such persons were frauds, and requested any victims to make known their cases to him. There is trepidation in the hearts of the shysters to-day.

JUBAL EARLY'S LATEST.

Gen. Jubal A. Early is credited with saying that the Virginia representation in Congress has never been of any use to the State, and that he is in favor of abolishing it, and for the United States Government to pay over to Virginia the salaries of the eleven Senators and members, being about

ANTI-FASHION.

THE CONVENTION AT VINELAND, N. J.

From Our Own Correspondent.

VINELAND, N. J., Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1873.

The female reformers intended to launch a thunderbolt against A. T. Stewart, Mme. Demarest, Lord & Taylor, and other tempters of female vanity by their Anti-Fashion Convention. But, unfortunately for their cause, there was but one place where it was possible to have an audience without attracting the attention of the naughty street boys and the disagreeable protection of the policemen. That place is Vineland. From causes unnecessary to mention, this town has become, according to themselves, the centre of free thought and free life in New-Jersey, or in the plainer language of ordinary mortals, a centre around which has congregated people who believe in Spiritualism, or have rooted objections to marriage, or who believe in polyandry, or polygamy, or other heterodox notions. Readers of THE TIMES during the war may remember the enormous advertisements which entreated people to settle in Vineland. The tract of land on which the town has been laid out was purchased by Mr. Charles K. Landis, son of a leading lawyer, in 1857, but it was only during the first year of the war that any actual attempt at settlement was made. Mr. Landis had one great idea, and that was trees. In every deed of sale he made it a stipulation that the purchasher should agree not only to build a house upon his lot, but also to stock it with fruit-trees, and to surround it with shade-trees. The inexorable tenacity with which he has insisted upon the carrying out of these conditions has resulted in making Vineland a very pleasing place. The population at the present time amounts to at least 12,000. The people tolerate the anti-fashion reformers and the Spiritualists, because they are tolerated themselves. But as for joining in any demonstrations of the sort, which the former desire to inaugurate, they would as soon think of submitting to the odious yoke of matrimony, that chain which breaks young hearts, according to the French romancers. There are no municipal regulations either which could frown down with authority the costume which the anti-fashionists have adopted. For Vineland is still a village, cared for by a governing committee, and what is very improperly called liberalism is fully represented in that body. For these reasons those ladies who, like Susan P. Fowler, Olivia F. Shepard, and others, wear tunics and pants, have been able to do so in complete security from insult or even observation. Vineland, moreover, is so completely out of the way that no persons who are going anywhere else are likely ever to stop there. It is in Cumberland County, N. J., and is, indeed, on the road to Cape May. But the fashionables who go there have always a special train from Camden, which does not stop at any intervening station, and hence the little peculiarities of Vineland have escaped observation.

But all these things which tended to make this town the place of all others for the purpose had also this disadvantage—that it was very difficult to get at. Hence the convention ran the risk of being attended only by Vinelanders. From what I have been able to glean so far, this is exactly the fate which has befallen them. It is true that there are a few from abroad, but the majority, in fact all save some five or six, are Vinelanders. The advertisement of the convention was signed by Mary E. Tillotson, Susan P. Fowler, Olivia F. Shepard, Lucinda S. Wilcox, M. D., Ellen Dickinson, and A. W. M. Bartlett, M. D. But it very soon appeared that though all these ladies were unanimous in desiring some reform, there was nothing like union of ideas as to what that reform should be. There were at the hall where the convention was held only some fifty people, half of whom were men. On the platform was a gentleman from Boston with a very incipient mustache and a round, jolly face. He evidently was the Secretary. Beside him were two ladies in that peculiar dress which Mrs. Dr. Walker has made notorious. One was a lecturer, Mrs. Olivia F. Shepard, the other a lady, Mrs. Wilcox. The former called the convention to order, and made a little speech about dress and women's rights, &c., and then desired the Secretary, the fat boy from Boston, to read the cheering messages which they had received from the sisterhood of radical reformers. At this point Mrs. Ellen Dickinson, who was clothed in the usual feminine fashion, rose up, and started a point of order, which was that there was no presiding Chairman, and that none of the usual forms of parliamentary usage in the construction of conventions had been complied with. The Chairwoman *de facto*, the fair Olivia Shepard, replied that the persons who had paid for the hall had arranged all that beforehand to save time and trouble. But this did not suit some of the long-haired sympathizing gentlemen present, for one of them rose and made a long speech deprecating such an invasion of popular rights. He wound up by putting a motion to the assembly that they do forthwith proceed to nominate a Chairman. The fair Olivia was obdurate. She and her friends had paid for the hall, and were not going to change their programme for anybody. Some one suggested that those who objected to the arrangements could hold a convention of their own, which was immediately caught at. The lady on the platform who was going to speak whenever the eloquent Chairwoman gave her the opportunity, now went over disgracefully to the enemy, and poor Olivia and her Secretary were left alone on the platform. About half the people then departed, with the firm intention of holding a convention of their own at another hall, carrying off in triumph one out of the two ladies in pants who were present. But a reinforcement came in the person of Mrs. Mary E. Tillotson, a lady whose costume was more gorgeous than impressive. She wore a tunic and pants of crimson velvet, with a gold watch-chain slung artistically across the front. Her head-dress was a blonde wig of a thousand little curls, looking like spun glass, and this was surmounted by a page's cap of the fourteenth century, in which an ostrich feather was fastened by an aigrette of amethysts. She wore at the other extremity substantial shoes, with remarkably thick soles, and of considerable length which creaked with all the solemnity that we are accustomed to look for in the boots of bank Presidents. This imposing person had a small, insignificant face, of the pointed order, the nose and chin being highly developed, but her small, bright blue eyes peered out from under her head-gear with considerable shrewdness. She mounted the platform to give countenance to the fair Olivia, and after a whispered consultation the reading of the cheering messages was continued. This, however, did not last long, and then there was another whispered consultation, after which the Chairwoman announced with reluctance the appalling fact that the speaker had gone off with the dissenters, and as it wanted half an hour to the earliest time when they could possibly adjourn, she would be much obliged if some one would say something. As nobody responded, she singled out an unfortunate German who had come in to stare at the folks making fools of themselves, and asked him, as he was a shoe-maker, to favor the audience with some remarks on boots. At first the Dutchman did not comprehend what was wanted of him, but when he did, he rose up and actually did give extempore some very sensible comments on the kind of foot-gear required by working men in Winter time, making some strictures upon the absurdity of boots. He seemed to favor something like the French sabot. The Chairwoman and the lady in velvet smiled as they saw the audience interested, and hoped evidently that he would go on talking until 12 o'clock at least. But the wretch, when he had said what he had to say, stopped speaking, very much at variance with the usual practice of our orators, who continue for hours after they have exhausted their subject. Fifteen dreadful minutes still remained, and, as there was no relief, the semblance of a meeting was abandoned, and conversation became general. Then, at 12 o'clock, the meeting was adjourned until 2 o'clock. At that hour, when the doors were opened, the seceders came along with the rest. The interval had been passed in kissing and making friends generally, and with a liberal allowance of ifs—as "if you meant so and so, why I should have said so and so"—peace was made and the two parties became one. Mrs. Olivia F. Shepard rose to say that she had ceased to be a Chairwoman, and the management had passed into other hands. The platform was then deserted. It seems that the lady in question had blessed many husbands without waiting for the deliberations of Divorce Courts. Mrs. Dr. Wilcox was nominated temporary Chairwoman after a little squabbling, in which the tails of all the old cats became distinctly visible under their skirts. There were many more people present in the afternoon, but only the same three wore the peculiar coats and pants. Immediately after Mrs. Wilcox had been nominated Chairwoman, Mrs. Duffy was nominated Secretary. Then without a moment's pause the same lady, Mrs. Duffy, was nominated permanent Chairwoman. And now began a laughable scene in the effort to secure a Secretary. Everybody refused in turn, and one would have thought from the positive refusals that the ladies were rather doubtful of their orthography. At last Mrs. Shepard accepted it in an indefinite sort of manner, and this was a triumph for the free-love element. Then Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Tillotson were appointed Vice Presidents, and the three ladies, it appears, were called on the platform. The permanent Chairwoman, Mrs. Duffy, was very plainly and sensibly dressed, as would become a farmer's wife, and the contrast between the two fashions was by no means favorable to the new idea. The audience by this time numbered nearly two hundred people, and among them were many who were so very smartly attired that their object in being present was not easy to divine. It is probable that Vineland, like other country places, is somewhat dull in the Winter, and any excitement, even such a mild one as this, is eagerly welcomed. It would be absurd to believe that any of the people present among the ranks of the young and good-looking were converts to the cause.

The reading of the cheering messages from abroad was the business in order after the organization had been completed, the most remarkable being one from Sister Sadie Bailey, of Waukegan, Ill. This was filled with such phrases as "Go on in your heart-stirring mission, oh beloved agitators," and "to rescue woman from the thraldom of the tyrant, fashion." There was also a communication from Dr. Trent, of New-York, which was intensely eloquent in phraseology, but not particularly practical. His main idea seemed to be that the modern dress, which attempted to hide the female figure, sprang from sensuality and not from purity. Probably the doctor does not go to evening parties, or he would have remarked that fashionable dress was not specially calculated to hide the sex of the lovely wearers. He complimented Vineland as having been the place where the new dress had emanated, and wound up by a sky-rocket blaze of universal eloquence, which referred to everything in general and nothing in particular. There were other letters read, some of them sensibly directed against tight lacing and dragging skirts. Then Dr. R. Carter was requested to speak, and did speak; but the most extraordinary feature of all the performances, his included, was that nobody noticed the fact that the evils complained of were only abuses of the present dress, and not inherent. No Committee on Resolutions was appointed, and consequently no active measures can or will be taken, and the whole matter will resolve itself into a powwow and a display. Mrs. Shepard tried to remedy this by presenting a resolution, with, however, the distinct proviso that it should not be voted upon. Her resolution was as follows: "*Resolved*, That when the mother puts her girl into petticoats and her boy into trousers, she seals the girl's doom as a slave, and gives the boy a title-deed of ownership which he records and presents against her whenever, in after life, she asks for equal rights with him." This was talked over and turned over in every way, but nothing practical was arrived at. We shall see what will happen to-morrow.

LARGE FIRES IN CHICAGO.

DESTRUCTION OF THE UNION CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION, AND A NEW BLOCK OF STORES.

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 20.—Between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the Union Central Depot building, occupied by the Michigan Central, Illinois Central, and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroads, at the foot of Lake street, and in a short time made such progress as to defy the Fire Department. The building was entirely consumed. The baggage in the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy baggage-room was nearly all lost, only a few pieces being saved and taken to the freight depot across the street. The baggage in the other room at the south end of the depot, was saved, the fire being put out before it reached that far. Some of the baggage, however, had been already removed to places of safety. Nothing was saved from any of the offices connected with the depot. The tracks were crowded with cars, and most of them were saved, but the men were unable to remove a number of fine passenger cars. The Michigan Central Railroad Company lose three passenger coaches and two Pullman sleeping cars. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company lose three coaches, including one Pullman sleeping car. The Illinois Central Company lose four coaches, partially burned. The Cincinnati Air Line lose one coach. The losses are estimated at between $300,000 and $400,000. The amount of insurance is unknown. The depot was a frame building put up after the great fire for temporary purposes.

While this fire was in progress and claimed the attention of the Fire Department, the bell sounded again and the announcement was made that a large stone-front block on State street, between Van Buren and Harrison streets, was also on fire. It was fully twenty minutes before an engine reached the ground, and the flames made such progress that five buildings, from No. 294 to No. 302, inclusive, were consumed. The fire was first seen in Armstrong's paint and oil store, Nos. 296 and 298 State street, and from here the flames spread on either side to the adjoining buildings. The sufferers are: Colby & Wirts, furniture; Merwin Church, hardware; W. Ware, Wire Mattrass Company; W. T. Stickney, ladies' underwear; M. W. & T. Lester, harness. The loss is estimated at about $300,000. Armstrong loses on stock $14,000; on the building about $6,000; Merwin Church, Nos. 300 and 302, about the same amount; Colby & Wirts, about $18,000. These buildings were new, having been erected since the great fire.

THE LOSSES.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—The total loss by the burning of the Union Depot, this morning, was about $62,500, not including about 300 pieces of baggage in the baggage-room of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and which is appraised at about $10,000. In addition to this baggage the Illinois Central estimates its losses at $20,000. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Road estimates its losses at $20,000. The Pullman Palace Car Company estimate their loss at $3,500, and the Michigan Central Road estimates its loss at $12,000. The movement of trains on this road are not interfered with by the fire, all passenger trains leaving to-day and to-night as usual, from the site of the burned depot.

W. E. Tunis, of Detroit, who owned a stationary stand where the fire originated, loses $2,000.

The losses by fire on State street foot up $129,400, distributed as follows: E. G. Mason on building Nos. 296 to 298 State street, $20,000, insured for $7,500 in Commercial Union, and $5,000 in Royal. Armstrong & Co., dealers in paints and oils, occupants of above stores, lose $16,000; insured in the Atlantic and Pacific for $2,500; Lycoming, $2,500; Pennsylvania, $2,500; Fairfield Company, $3,300; American, of Pennsylvania, $2,500; Pennsylvania, $2,500. The third floor was occupied by Yeoman & Co., manufacturers of spring beds, who lose about $6,000; insured in the Atlantic and Pacific for $1,250, and in the Allemania, of Ohio, for $1,250. Nos. 300 and 302 State street, loss on building about $25,000; insured in the Commercial Union for $7,500, in the Royal $5,000. The store occupied by Church's housekeeping emporium, loss $20,000 to $25,000; insured in the Home, of Ohio, for $1,000; Aetna, $5,000; Girard, $2,000; German American, $2,000; Mutual of New-Orleans, $2,000; National of Hartford, $1,000, and Atlas of New-Orleans, $1,000. No. 304 State street was damaged to the extent of $2,000; fully covered by insurance. M. & W. & E. F. Lester occupied the building as a stove store, and lose about $6,000; fully insured. Nos. 292 and 294 were damaged to the extent of $4,000. fully insured in the following companies: The Commercial, Union, Ætna, London, Liverpool, and Globe, and the Traders', of Chicago. Messrs. Colby & Wirts, furniture dealers, and the occupants, estimate their loss at $12,000, which is fully insured in the Home Insurance Company, of Ohio; the People's, of Trenton, N. J.; the Neptune and National Companies, of Pennsylvania; the Armenia Fire Association, the American Company, of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Company.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

IGNITION OF A GAS-HOLDER—NINE OR TEN MEN AND WOMEN KILLED OR BURNED TO DEATH.

RUTLAND, Vt., Jan. 20.—The citizens of Bennington were startled, about 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, by a terrific explosion, which was heard twenty miles distant. It proved to be an explosion of the gas-works on the premises of H. E. Bradford & Co.'s knitting mills. The gas, it seems, had leaked from the pipes until the air was so charged that it took fire from the boiler, communicating with the gas-holder. The mill is a one-story brick building. The explosion lifted the roof and bursted out the walls of the building, so that the roof fell back, crushing many of the employes. The fire spread instantaneously all over the building, and it was half consumed before the flames could be got under control by the Fire Department. It was a fearful scene. Many of the women, screaming terribly, were inside the building, and it was not in the power of any one to help them. Besides the nine or ten known positively to have been killed, a good many were badly injured. Among the latter are Horatio Fields, Wm. Morse, Ada Morse, Harriet Morse, Ella Bessel, and Herbert Moon, and many others, not, however, so seriously. The injured were attended by Drs. Morgan, Bennet, and Goodall, and everything was done to alleviate their sufferings. The remains of some of the unfortunate victims were reduced to charred bones, and nothing was left to indicate who they were except the position in which they were found. This is one of the most appalling disasters that have happened in this section for years. Business in Bennington is almost entirely suspended, and the calamity has cast a shadow over all.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

CONDITION OF AFFAIRS AT WILKESBARRE.

ALLEGED DETERMINATION OF THE MINERS TO STAND OUT—AGITATION INCREASING—THE MINERS' UNION.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Jan. 20.—New developments are occurring daily regarding the coal miners' rupture with the operators. In a long interview with John Siney, C. Ben Johnson, editor of the *Workingman*, the organ of the Miners' Union, and a number of kindred spirits to-day, it was learned that they are about to make a thorough tour of the Wilkesbarre, Lehigh, and Scranton regions, in the interest of the National Miners' Association. The object of the mission is to obtain all the facts possible concerning the colliers and their grievances. It is also intended to arouse the dormant energies of the demoralized Union. Siney emphatically states that the strike in Schuylkill County will continue for six months at least, as the men will not accede to the proposition of Franklin B. Gowen and other operators. Already the miners complain of oppression on the part of the operators who own stores. It is stated that at Yatesville not a pound of anything will be sold, and no coal can be had to prevent them from starvation and freezing. It is feared that much destitution will soon ensue, and in the face of this the men say they will hold out until the middle of the Summer if necessary. Agitation through the county increases, and the membership of the National Association is increased daily. This afternoon a convention representing the Wilkesbarre, Plymouth, Sugarnotch, Ashley, and Newport districts was held here, to organize an executive board of the association for Luzerne County. James O'Halloran was elected representative to the Grand Council of the Union. It has been stated here to-day that the feeling is growing among the working men that Charles Parrish, President of the Coal Operators' Association, will not insist on a reduction of ten per cent., but has made the statement to intimidate them from expecting the ten per cent. advance. But notwithstanding this, it is understood the men will maintain the attitude they have taken. By error in telegraphing last night, the figures applying to the strikers in Chamokin and Carbondale were raised to 41,000, when they should have read 4,000.

STRIKE OF THE IRON MINERS AT TOPTON.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Jan. 20.—Intelligence has just reached here that the iron miners at Topton, Lehigh County, have struck against the proposition to reduce wages. It is estimated that 3,000 men are thus unemployed. The pay of miners last Summer was $1 60 per day. This was decreased to $1 10 in the Fall. The men now demand $1 25. It is reported that

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET.

At the Exchange yesterday, Thursday, Jan. 20, by order of the Supreme Court, in foreclosure under the direction of N. Jarvis, Esq., Referee, James M. Miller sold two three-story and basement brown-stone front houses, each 19.5 by 50.9, with lots each 19.8 by 100.11, located on East One Hundred and Twenty-third street, north side, 177.2 feet west of Fourth avenue, one for $14,500 and the other for $16,000, the plaintiff in legal action, S. E. Stone, purchasing both pieces of property. The houses after the auction were offered at private sale for $17,500 apiece, thus showing that they were sold at a low rate. At a sale similar to the above, Edward Patterson, Esq., Referee, D. M. Seaman sold a three-story and basement brown-stone front house, 20 by 48, with lot 20 by 100.5, situate on East Fifty-eighth street, south side, 140 feet west of Second avenue, for $500 over and above incumbrances amounting to $13,500, making the total price realized $14,000. No other sales were effected, the remaining auctions of the day noticed being disposed of as follows: Sale by Wm. Kennelly of a five-story brick tenement-house and lot on East Sixteenth street, west of Avenue B, adjourned to the 28th inst.; sale by B. P. Fairchild of a four-story brown-stone front house and lot on Madison avenue, south-west corner of Sixtieth street, adjourned to Feb. 5 and sale by J. M. Miller of four lots on East Eighty-sixth street, south-west corner of Second avenue, property withdrawn, the legal proceedings having been stopped.

TO-DAY'S AUCTIONS.

For to-day one auction is announced, viz.:

By Hugh N. Camp, foreclosure sale by order of the Court of Common Pleas, Messrs. Chas. Price and N. Jarvis, Jr., Referees, of two houses with lots, each 21.10 by 103.3 on East Twelfth street, north side, 86.4 feet east of Avenue C.

EXCHANGE SALES, TUESDAY, JAN. 20.

NEW-YORK.

By James M. Miller.

3-story and basement brown-stone front house and lot, East 123d st., n. s., 177.2 ft. w. of 4th av., lot 19.5x100.11, house 50.2 ft. deep.....$14,500

3-story and basement brown-stone front house and lot, East 123d st., n. s., 196.7 ft. w. of 4th av., adjoining above, lot 19.5x100.11, house 50.2 ft. deep..... 16,000

By D. M. Seaman.

3-story and basement brown-stone house and lot, East 58th st., s. s., 140 ft. w. of 2d av., lot 20x100.5, house 48 ft. deep.....$14,000

RECORDED REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

NEW-YORK.

Monday, Jan. 19.

5th st., e. s., 22x97.6, ½ part..... $6,750
15th st., n. s., 210 ft. e. of 7th av., 25x103.3..... 16,000
98th st., n. s., 95 ft. e. of Lexington av., 18x83. 15,000
98th st., n. s., 275 ft. w. of 1st av., 25x100.4.... 10,800
145th st., n. s., 275 ft. e. of Leggett av., 25x 150, Springhurst..... 667
Avenue B, e. s. s., part lot, 102 ft., F. Hill, East Fordham, 25x125..... 600
Clinton av., n. s., 275 ft. w. of 2d st., 25x200, to Willard av., Morrisania..... 350
Courtlandt av. e. s., 50 ft. s. of Denman st., 25x 100, Melrose..... 1,860
Clinton av., n. s., 450 ft. w. of 2d st., 50x100; Morrisania..... 430
2d av., e. s., 123.6 ft. s. of 42d st., 49.3x70..... 43,200

Leasehold Conveyances.

Broadway, No. 650, old Constitution Hall, 29x 130..... $130,000
Broadway, e. s., 70.1 ft. s. of 9th st., 24x100x 91.2x8.9..... 85,000

Leases Recorded.

Chambers st., Nos. 173 and 175, 5 years, per year..... $9,240
West st., No. 169, 10 years, per year..... 1,200

CITY REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE,

TO CLOSE THE ESTATE OF DAVID HOADLEY, AND BY ORDER OF EXECUTORS,

the large and substantial

SIX-STORY GRANITE BUILDING,

NOS. 17 AND 19 BROADWAY,

adjoining the Stevens House, 44 feet 9 inches front, by an average depth of 122 feet. One-half of the purchase money can remain on a mortgage. Apply to

E. H. LUDLOW & CO., No. 3 Pine st.

A FINE PROPERTY NEAR COOPER INSTITUTE, suitable for a society, club, dispensary, or other business, on Stuyvesant st., running through to 9th st., 80 feet front on each, 89 feet deep one side and 110 feet on the other, containing four-story brick dwelling and two brick stables; will be sold on easy terms.

W. H. FALCONER, No. 100 4th av., near 12th st.

LOTS FOR SALE OR LEASE,

For Founderies, Manufactories, Chemical Works. Large blocks of lots, with bulkhead water front, suitable for large founderies or factories; also blocks of lots suitable for dwellings; lots 20 feet front; terms very easy. Apply to S. B. SCHIEFFELIN, No. 170 William st.

EIGHTH AV. CORNER FOR INVESTMENT.—The valuable property north-eastern corner 8th av. and 57th st. is offered for sale at a bargain for permanent investment; lot 25 feet 10 by 100. Terms very easy. Apply to D. F. BAKER, No. 138 West 44th st.

W. H. FALCONER'S

REAL ESTATE OFFICE,

No. 100 4th av., near 12th st. Established 1853. Houses and lots bought and sold; stores and houses let; rents collected and returns promptly made.

WM. S. GAVEY, REAL ESTATE AND HOUSE Agent, No. 34 Bleeker st.—City or country property rented or sold; rents collected; tenement property a specialty.

MURRAY HILL.—FOR SALE—(A BARGAIN)—handsome new three-story brown-stone house; all improvements. Apply on premises, No. 149 East 37th st., to D. T. KENNEDY, builder.

FOR SALE—THE EXTRA WIDE AND DEEP CORner building, No. 401 Broadway.

HOMER MORGAN, No. 2 Pine st.

BROOKLYN REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE OR LEASE—STORAGE STORES.—Stores Nos. 5 and 6 Atlantic Dock, fronting East River, adjoining Hamilton Ferry. Apply to S. B. SCHIEFFELIN, No. 170 William st.

COUNTRY REAL ESTATE.

TRUCK GARDENERS.

To lease favorably at Garden City, on Central Railroad of Long Island, eighteen miles distant, farms of fifteen to fifty or more acres each, with suitable buildings. Apply to A. T. STEWART'S agent, Broadway and Chambers st., between 12 and 3 o'clock, or to D. S. DENTON, Garden City, adjoining Hempstead village.

FOR SALE OR TO LET—AT ROSELLE, ONE of the most beautiful places on the line of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey, a modern house, thirteen rooms, with carriage-house and garden; grounds ample—ten city lots; one block from depot, opposite the park, forty-three minutes from New-York, (five minutes from Elizabeth, seventy-five feet higher.) Also, a neat cottage with seven rooms; very desirable. These properties are so arranged that more ground can be annexed, if desirable. A. D. HOPE, No. 119 Liberty st.

Also, very desirable country places at other points on the line of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey.

ORANGE, N. J.—COUNTRY HOUSES, LANDS, and village lots for sale; a great variety. Also, furnished and unfurnished houses to let for season or year, by WALTER E. SMITH, formerly Blackwell & Smith, Orange, corner Main and Cone sts.

FOR SALE.—STATEN ISLAND—HOTEL AND VILla sites; fifty acres, south side, choice location, having fine view of ocean and land views. Apply to S. B. SCHIEFFELIN, No. 170 William st.

REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION.

EXECUTORS' SALE OF THE REAL ESTATE OF ANDREW L. IRELAND, DECEASED, BY MESSRS. A. H. MULLER & SON, TUESDAY, FEB. 3, AT THE EXCHANGE SALES-ROOM, NO. 111 BROADWAY:

Four-story dwelling-house, No. 51 Amity st.; lot 25x 100 feet.

Two-story and attic dwelling-house, No. 52 Amity st.; lot 21 6-12x75 feet.

Two-story and attic dwelling-house, No. 67 Amity st.; lot 25x91 feet.

Three-story dwelling-house, No. 21 South 5th av.; lot 21 11-12x128 6-12 feet.

Three-story dwelling-house and stores, Nos. 51 and 53 8th av., corner of Horatio st.; lot 6 9-12 feet on Horatio st., 28 3-12 feet on 8th av., x 87 6-12 feet and 66 feet in depth, 25 feet rear.

Two two-story cottages, Nos. 12 and 14 Horatio st. (Jackson square,) No. 14 three rooms deep; lots 14 5-12x88 feet.

Four two-story dwelling-houses, No. 2 Gansevoort st.; lot 25x98 feet.

Four-story store and double dwelling-house, with rear building, No. 641 and 641 Hudson st.; lot 99 2-12x111 5-12 feet.

Three three-story and attic dwelling-houses, Nos. 306, 308, 310 10th av., between 27th and 28th sts.; lots 19 9-12x70 feet.

DWELLINGS TO LET.

TO LET.

TWENTY-FIVE DWELLINGS at GARDEN CITY, eighteen miles distant, on Central Railroad of Long Island; rents from $150 to $800; early and late trains, and cheap commutation. Also, five brick stores, with dwellings attached.

Apply to A. T. STEWART'S Agent, Broadway and Chambers st., from 12 to 3 P. M.; or to D. S. DENTON, Garden City, adjoining Hempstead Village.

TO LET—WITH POSSESSION AT ONCE, THE first-class four-story brown-stone house, No. 37 West 31st st.; the house is now in perfect order, and will only be rented to a first-class private family. Apply to HOMER MORGAN, No. 2 Pine st.

REAL ESTATE WANTED.

WANTED—A FEW DOORS FROM 5TH, OR ON Gibson av., between 32d and 44th sts., a medium-sized first-class house, in perfect order; basement preferred; price not over $36,000. Any party to whom the above may suit can obtain an independent re-sell at a large sum, may address R. E. M., Post Office Box No. 2,295, stating location, price, dimensions, &c. Principals only need answer.

FOR CASH—A MODERN FOUR-STORY DWELling-house; brick or stone front, not less than twenty-two feet wide, in first-class location; price not over $25,000, with full details, R. W. C., Post Office Box No. 4,870.

A DWELLING—IMPROVED OR UNIMPROVED PROPerty in Harlem or Manhattanville, New-York, in exchange for [illegible]

STORES, &C., TO LET.

OFFICES TO LET IN

TIMES BUILDING.

SPLENDID OFFICES TO LET IN THE FIRE-PROOF TIMES BUILDING.

Apply at TIMES COUNTING-ROOM.

TO LET OR LEASE.—THE FIVE-STORY BRICK building Nos. 34 and 36 Elizabeth st., 50 feet north of Canal st.; building 50 by 80 feet, lot 50 by 100 feet; well adapted for a manufactory; will be altered or extended to suit tenant. Apply to J. MILTON WATERHOUSE, No. 174 Canal st.

TO LET OR LEASE.—THE NEW AND ELEGANT store, No. 6 East 23d st., on Madison square and close to Broadway; about 37.6x100. Possession at once. HOMER MORGAN, No. 2 Pine st.

BROADWAY PROPERTY TO LEASE—SOUTH-west corner of Houston st.; plot 50x100; would be leased for improvement for twenty-one years with renewals. Apply to HORACE S. ELY, No. 22 Pine st.

TO LET—NOS. 18 AND 20 VESEY ST., FIRST floor, basement, and sub-celler, 50x100 feet, now occupied by M. A. Happock & Co. Apply to J. & J. W. MEEKS, No. 20 Vesey st., Room No. 5.

HOUSES & ROOMS WANTED.

WANTED.—A HOUSE FOR A SMALL FAMILY AT a rent of not over $1,200; location must be good, and lease required for either three or five years. Address L. J. H., Post Office Box No. 4,711.

FINANCIAL.

CITY OF ROCHESTER

7 Per Cent.

WATER LOAN BONDS.

CIRCULARS ON APPLICATION.

ROBINSON, CHASE & CO.

BANKERS, NO. 18 BROAD ST.

George Opdyke & Co., Bankers, No. 25 Nassau-st., New-York, like an incorporated Bank, receive deposits subject to check at sight, with the additional advantage to Depositors of Interest on daily Balances.

CAPRON & MERRIAM,

BANKERS,

No. 9 Wall St., New-York.

MONEY RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT, subject to sight-check, upon which INTEREST will be allowed, according to the rates of the money market.

BANKS, BANKERS, MERCHANTS and other accounts received on deposit as above, or their funds will be loaned on commission, as they prefer.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, STOCKS, BONDS, and GOLD bought and sold on commission.

ADVANCES made on first-class COMMERCIAL PAPER, and other approved securities.

Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Co.

SECOND MORTGAGE SEVEN PER CENT. BONDS, COUPON BONDS OF $1,000 EACH.

REGISTERED BONDS OF $1,000 AND $5,000 EACH. INTEREST PAYABLE 1ST JUNE AND 1ST DECEMBER. PRINCIPAL DUE IN 1903.

PRICE, 95 AND ACCRUED INTEREST.

For sale on behalf of the company by

SCOTT, STRONG & CO.,

Bankers, No. 36 Broad st.

The nominal amount of bonds authorized to be issued under this mortgage is twenty-five millions. Of that amount SIX MILLIONS are reserved to extinguish or absorb the unsecured bonds known as the "New Sinking Fund 7s of 1882," and of the balance but ONE MILLION in amount are now offered for sale.

WALKER, ANDREWS & CO.

No. 14 Wall-st., New-York.

ANDREWS & CO., PARIS,

TRAVELERS' CREDITS.

Exchange and Circular Notes on UNION BANK OF LONDON and on PARIS.

LEONARD, SHELDON & CO.,

LATE

LEONARD, SHELDON & FOSTER,

BANKERS, No. 10 WALL STREET, NEW-YORK,

BUY AND SELL ON COMMISSION STOCKS, BONDS AND GOLD. INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

WM. B. LEONARD, GEO. B. HOWELL.

W. C. SHELDON.

N. Y. Central & H. R. R. R.

First Mortgage 7 per cent. Bonds.

FOR SALE BY

DAVIS & FREEMAN,

NO. 53 EXCHANGE PLACE.

Stocks, Bonds, and Gold bought and sold on Commission.

FRANCIS T. WALKER & CO

—NO. 10 WALL ST.—

Buy and sell for cash or on margins, Railroad Stocks, Bonds, and Government Securities.

PROPOSALS FOR $3,821,900 CONSOLIDATED STOCKS

of the

CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW-YORK,

For the purpose of providing means for paying the bonds of the City and County, maturing Feb. 1, 1874.

Sealed proposals will be received at the Controller's office until TUESDAY, Jan. 27, 1874, at 12 o'clock M., when the same will be publicly opened, for the whole or any part of the sum of $3,821,900, of the consolidated stocks of the City and County of New-York, to wit:

CONSOLIDATED STOCK OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, authorized by section 2, chapter 756, Laws of 1873; section 4, chapter 444, Laws of 1872, and chapter 322, Laws of 1871, payable Dec. 1, 1896...$2,947,200

CONSOLIDATED STOCK OF THE COUNTY OF NEW-YORK, authorized by section 2, chapter 756, Laws of 1873; section 4, chapter 444, Laws of 1872, and chapter 325, Laws of 1871, payable Dec. 1, 1896.. 874,700

Said stocks will bear interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st day of June and December in each year.

Each proposal should be sealed, and indorsed "Proposals for consolidated stocks of the City and County of New-York," and inclosed in a second envelope, addressed to the Controller.

The right is reserved on the part of the Controller to reject any or all bids, if in his judgment the interests of the City and County require it.

For full information, see advertisement in the *City Record*. ANDREW H. GREEN, Controller.

CITY OF NEW-YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, CONTROLLER'S OFFICE, Jan. 16, 1874.

JOHN MUNROE & CO.,

BANKERS, NO. 8 WALL ST., NEW-YORK, ISSUE CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT ON MUNROE & CO., PARIS, AND ON THE CONSOLIDATED BANK, LONDON.

OFFICE OF THE HAMILTON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 14, 1874.

AT THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS of this company, held on Jan. 5, 1874, the following named gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year:

HENRY DAVID,	BERNARD McFERELEY,
CHARLES JENKINS,	MERRITT H. SMITH,
M. M. VAN BUREN,	J. WINDMULLER,
J. W. BROWN,	WM. H. MCINTYRE,
EDWARD SCULLY,	JOHN A. BAUSH,
B. A. MAYEREAU,	JAMES REEVES,
WILLIAM MILES,	THOMAS WEBB,
NELSON BAMBLE,	GEORGE C. JEFFERIES,
JOSIAH M. WHITNEY,	NOAH A. CHILDS,
CLEMENT S. PARSONS,	JOHN M. BIXBY,
LAMONT BLEECKER,	ANDREW J. CHALKLEY,
DANIEL D. WHITNEY,	NICHOLAS SEAGRIST,
ABRAM WAKEMAN,	DAVID MAHANY,
R. L. HATFIELD,	JOHN C. WINANS,
CYRUS H. LOUTREL,	JOHN ROMER,
ISRAEL C. LAWRENCE,	J. B. J. LYDENBURGH,
	H. J. BARINGER.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, JOHN C. WILLARD was unanimously re-elected President of the company.

D. D. LEEDS, Secretary.

THE HOLDERS OF THE FIRST MORTGAGE bonds of the New-York and Oswego Midland Railroad Company are requested to send their names, address, and the numbers and amount of their bonds to Messrs. ALEXANDER L. GREEN, Solicitors for the Trustees, Equitable Building, No. 120 Broadway, New-York City.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKholders of the Maryland Coal Company, for the election of a President and ten Directors, and for such other business as may come before the meeting, will be held at the Company's office, No. 111 Broadway, Feb. 3, at 11 A. M. Polls open from 12 M. till 1 P. M.

A. T. KING, Secretary.

FINANCIAL.

REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE BONDS,

GUARANTEED BY THE

Equitable Trust Company,

$1,000,000 CAPITAL!

These Real Estate Mortgage Bonds are commended to the attention of the most

CONSERVATIVE INVESTORS.

First—They have the individual liability of the maker.

Second—Each bond is secured by a first mortgage of real estate of not less than double its value.

Third—The prompt payment of both principal and interest of every bond is guaranteed by this company.

The company guaranteeing these bonds receives no deposits, owes no money, and incurs no obligation of any character, except those arising from such guaranty, thereby keeping its whole capital of ONE MILLION DOLLARS unimpaired to meet at all times the prompt payment of both principal and interest of these bonds.

All mortgages securing these bonds are formally approved by the following Executive Board:

R. L. KENNEDY,	ADRIAN ISELIN,
SAMUEL WILLETS,	JAS. A. ROOSEVELT,
WM. REMSEN,	EUGENE KELLY,
CHAS. BUTLER,	JOHN D. MAXWELL,
HENRY F. HAVEN,	GUSTAV H. KISSEL.

These securities bear seven per cent. interest, payable semi-annually, and are offered for sale at par and interest at the office of the Equitable Trust Company No. 76 Cedar st.

JONATHAN EDWARDS, President.

ROBINSON, CHASE & CO.,

BANKERS,

NO. 18 BROAD ST., NEW-YORK,

Transact a general banking business in all its details, allowing interest upon deposits to

BANKS, SAVINGS INSTITUTIONS, PRIVATE BANKERS, AND INDIVIDUALS.

Particular attention paid to the investment of

ESTATE AND TRUST FUNDS,

AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE SAME FURNISHED UPON APPLICATION.

Buy and sell upon commission

GOLD, UNITED STATES STOCKS,

and all securities dealt in at the N. Y. Stock Exchange.

First-class Municipal and Railroad loans negotiated.

EUGENE N. ROBINSON, THOMAS B. ATKINS,
GEORGE H. CHASE, WILLIAM T. MORRIS.

VERMILYE & CO.

BANKERS,

16 and 18 Nassau st., New-York.

DEALERS IN ALL ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

FIRST-CLASS RAILROAD AND MUNICIPAL BONDS ALWAYS ON HAND FOR INVESTMENT.

BUY AND SELL ON COMMISSION

RAILWAY STOCKS, BONDS, AND GOLD.

INTEREST ON DEPOSITS.

WASH'N H. VERNILYE, DONALD MACKAY,
JAS. A. TROWBRIDGE, LATHAM A. FISH.

N. Y. Central & Hudson River R. R.

First Mortgage Seven Per Cent. Bonds

FOR SALE BY

WOOD & DAVIS,

BANKERS, No. 31 Pine st.

CONN. VALLEY R. R. FIRST MTGE.

7 PER CENT. BONDS

(free of taxes)

FOR SALE BY

ALLEN, STEPHENS & CO.,

Bankers, No. 25 Pine st.

ROBERT WINTHROP & CO.,

BANKERS AND BROKERS,

No. 18 WALL ST.,

Execute orders for STOCKS, BONDS, and GOLD, allow interest on DEPOSITS, and transact a general Banking and Brokerage business.

OFFICE OF NEW-YORK, PROVIDENCE AND BOSTON RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 39 WILLIAM ST., NEW-YORK, Jan. 6, 1874.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS PAST OUR BOARD have been anxious to abolish the distinction between the "Preferred" and "Common" Stock of this Company, as there were only two shares of Common Stock out, and it was no longer necessary that there should be two classes of Stock.

At the last meeting of the Stockholders held in Providence on the 30th of September, 1873, the following resolution was passed for the purpose of accomplishing this end, viz.:

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be and they are hereby authorized to abolish the distinction between Common and Preferred Stock, and to cause the whole to be held as Common Stock in such manner as they may see fit.

And the Board in accordance with the above resolution, have caused a new form of certificate to be prepared, and at their last meeting, held Dec. 30, 1873, passed the following resolution, viz.:

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Board will adopt the certificate presented by the Treasurer for use of the Company after the 10th January proximo, and that a circular be issued and sent to each shareholder, requesting them to send in the certificates now held by them and to receive in lieu thereof the new form.

In accordance with the above, we beg to request you to send at your earliest convenience after 10th January, to Messrs. M. MORGAN'S SONS, Financial Agents, the certificates which you now hold, for exchange into certificates of the new form.

SAMUEL D. BABCOCK, President.
HENRY MORGAN, Treasurer.

HONE, NICHOLAS & CO.,

BANKERS AND BROKERS,

No. 49 Exchange place, New-York,

Execute orde s at both Boards in Stocks, Bonds, and Gold; buy and sell commercial paper; railway loans negotiated, and Agency for out of town corporations solicited; money received on deposits at four per cent., subject to check at sight.

JOHN HONE, Jr.,
H. S. NICHOLAS,
H. CHAUVITEAU.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,

No. 59 WALL ST.,

ISSUE COMMERCIAL and TRAVELERS' CREDITS AVAILABLE in all PARTS of the WORLD.

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR THE BALANCE OF THE FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS OF THE MASONIC HALL AND ASYLUM FUND, amounting to $185,000, will be received by the undersigned until Jan. 24. These bonds are part of an issue of $400,000, secured by a first and only mortgage on the valuable plot of land situated on the north-east corner of 6th av. and West 23d st., in the City of New-York, and the massive granite building now in process of erection on the same, and nearly completed. The land alone cost $340,000, and the cost of both land and building will amount to over $1,000,000.

The principal of the bonds is payable Sept. 15, 1891, and they bear interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, payable March 15 and Sept. 15. By legal enactment, savings banks may invest in these bonds to an amount not exceeding ten per cent. of their assets.

The proposals will be opened on MONDAY, Jan. 26, at 12 o'clock M. The right to reject any or all proposals is reserved by the Trustees of said fund.

Proposals may be addressed to JAMES M. AUSTIN, Treasurer, care of O. D. Ashley & Co., No. 2 Exchange court, of whom further information can be obtained.

IRVING NATIONAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Jan. 16, 1874.

AT THE ANNUAL ELECTION, HELD ON THE 13th inst., the following-named gentlemen were duly elected Directors of this bank for the ensuing year:

JOHN CASTREE,	CHAS. BURKHALTER,
DAVID B. MOSES,	JOHN T. WILSON,
JOHN ROMER,	HARVEY P. FARRINGTON,
ISAAC ODELL,	JAMES MCBRIDE,
WM. A. THOMSON,	JOHN L. JEWETT, JR.,
	CHARLES S. BROWN.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, JOHN CASTREE was unanimously re-elected President and CHARLES BURKHALTER Vice President.

L. JEWETT, Jr., Cashier.

OFFICE OF THE EAGLE FIRE COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 14, 1874.

AT THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTors of this Company, held on the 13th inst., the following gentlemen were elected:

JOHN Q. JONES,	HENRY MEYER,
ROBERT RAY,	JOSIAH B. BLOSSOM,
ROBT. LENOX KENNEDY,	FREDERICK W. STEVENS,
WILLIAM H. WEBB,	ANTONIO DE COPPET,
WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL,	J. GRENVILLE KANE,
JAMES A. ROOSEVELT,	JOHN A. L. VINGSTON,
	W. B. ASTEN.

At a subsequent meeting of the board, SANFORD COBB was unanimously re-elected President.

A. J. CLINTON, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC, NEW-YORK, Jan. 14, 1874.

AT A MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF this bank held on the 13th inst., the following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year:

R. H. LOWRY,	T. T. BUCKLEY,
J. J. CRANE,	E. W. CORLIES,
S. S. TISDALE,	G. G. SAMPSON,
H. A. HOWE,	W. H. GUION,
J. BOORMAN JOHNSTON,	S. R. STONE,
W. L. CORWELL,	G. W. CARHART.

At a meeting of the board held this day, ROBERT H. LOWRY was unanimously elected President, JOHN J. CRANE, Vice President, and EUGENE H. POLLEY, Assistant Cashier.

HENRY D. NORD, Cashier.

THIRD NATIONAL BANK, NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 12, 1874.

WE ARE PREPARED TO ATTEND TO FUNDing and registering Tennessee Coupons and Bonds. Information cheerfully given, and a copy of the Funding law furnished gratis on application.

EDGAR JONES, Cashier.

We refer to Importers' and Traders' National Bank, Bank of the Manhattan Company, New-York.

LOST—CAUTION.—ALL PERSONS ARE CAUTIONED against negotiating a certain CHECK for Five Thousand Dollars on the National Bank of Commerce, Boston, Mass., signed by Alpheus Hardy, H. Harris, and H. Montgomery, Trustees of the estate of Joshua Sears, dated Boston, Mass., Dec. 24, 1873, payable to the order of J. B. & J. M. Cornell, by them indorsed for deposit in Oriental Bank, New-York, payment on the same being stopped.

$10,000.—WANTED, TO BORROW that amount for one year, by a gentleman well-established in business, for which a bonus of 10% per cent. will be paid. Satisfactory business and social references furnished. Address BANKER, Box No. 198 Times Office.

FINANCIAL.

WOOD & DAVIS,

BANKERS,

No. 31 Pine St., New-York,

Receive the accounts of banks and bankers, merchants, and corporations.

Execute orders for United States and municipal stocks, railroad bonds, and investment securities for estate and trust funds.

C. D. WOOD SAM'L D. DAVIS.

ATLANTIC MUTUAL MARINE INSURANCE SCRIP wanted by INSURANCE SCRIP. WM. C. GILMAN, No. 48 Pine st.

DIVIDENDS.

THIRTIETH DIVIDEND.

OFFICE OF THE

COLUMBIA

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

NO. 161 BROADWAY.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE THIS DAY declared a semi-annual Dividend of FIVE (5) PER CENT. on the capital stock, payable on the 15th inst.

JNO. B. ARTHUR, Secretary.

THIRTY-FIRST DIVIDEND.

OFFICE OF THE

ARCTIC

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

No. 104 BROADWAY,

NEW-YORK, Jan. 14, 1874.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a Dividend of Five per Cent., payable to the stockholders or their legal representatives on demand.

CHARLES BAMBURGH, Secretary.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 17, 1874.

The Board of Managers of this company have declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT. upon the amount of its capital stock now represented by outstanding certificates.

This dividend, together with the INTEREST ACCRUED SINCE AUG. 1 UPON PAID-UP INSTALLMENTS OF THE NEW STOCK, will be paid at the NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, in New-York, on and after MONDAY, the 2d FEBRUARY NEXT.

The transfer books will be closed at 3 o'clock P. M. on Wednesday, 21st inst., and remain closed until the morning of Thursday, 5th February next.

By order of the board.

JAMES C. HARTT, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF

HOFFMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

NO. 130 BROADWAY.

M. F. HODGES, President.
SAMUEL M. CRAFT, Vice President.

OLIVER A. DRAKE, Secretary.

CAPITAL.....$200,000
SURPLUS..... 132,101
TOTAL ASSETS.....$332,101

NEW-YORK, Jan. 6, 1874.

A Dividend of Five per Cent. is this day declared payable on demand. OLIVER A. DRAKE, Secretary.

HOPE INSURANCE COMPANY,

OFFICE NO. 214 BROADWAY.

A Dividend of Five per Cent. is payable on and after Jan. 12, 1874.

LOUIS P. BAYARD, Secretary.

DIVIDEND.

FIREMAN'S TRUST INSURANCE COMPANY OF BROOKLYN, No. 60 WALL ST., NEW-YORK, AND No. 201 MONTAGUE ST., BROOKLYN, Jan. 12, 1874.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held this day, a Semi-annual Dividend of Five per Cent. was declared payable on demand.

Q. D. MILDEBERGER, Secretary.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES EXPRESS COMPANY, No. 82 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 16, 1874.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES Express Company have declared a quarterly dividend of two (2) dollars per share, payable at the office of Wells, Fargo & Co., No. 84 Broadway, New-York, on and after Feb. 2, prox.

The transfer-books will close (at the "Union Trust Company of New-York,") at two (2) o'clock P. M., on Tuesday, the 20th inst., and remain closed until Tuesday, Feb. 3.

GEORGE G. FARNHAM, Treasurer.

OFFICE OF WEST WISCONSIN RAILWAY COMPANY, No. 74 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK CITY, Dec. 24, 1873.

THE JANUARY COUPONS OF THE WEST Wisconsin Railway Company will be paid in gold on and after the 1st of January next at this office for the convenience of holders of coupons in Boston and vicinity, at Messrs. Tower, Giddings & Co., of that city; in Baltimore, at Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, and in Europe at London and Union County Bank, London, England.

F. E. TROWBRIDGE, Treasurer.

COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE COMPANY OF NEW-YORK, No. 29 WILLIAM ST., NEW-YORK, Jan. 12, 1874.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE THIS day declared a Quarterly Dividend of Two and One-half per Cent. on the capital stock of the Company, payable on and after Feb. 2, 1874.

The transfer-books will be closed from Jan. 31 until Feb. 5. JAMES CLYNE, Secretary.

THIRTY-SECOND DIVIDEND.

OFFICE OF RELIEF FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, NO. 149 BROADWAY.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 7, 1874.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE THIS DAY DECLARED A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT. PAYABLE ON DEMAND.

JAN. 8, 1874. W. E. CRARY, Secretary.

ADRIATIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 14, 1874.

A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER Cent., is payable on demand.

CHARLES. D. HARTSHORNE, Secretary.

NATIONAL BROADWAY BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1873.

FORTY-EIGHTH DIVIDEND.

A semi-annual dividend of Three Dollars per share will be paid on and after the 2d of January ensuing.

J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1873.

A DIVIDEND OF FOUR PER CENT. HAS BEEN declared by this company, payable on the 2d day of February next, to the holders of full-paid shares, registered at the close of the 15th day of January next, after which, and until the 5th day of February, the transfer-books will be closed. L. V. F. RANDOLPH, Assistant Treasurer.

THIRTY-FOURTH DIVIDEND.

LENOX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, No. 158 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 13, 1874.

The Board of Directors have declared the usual Semi-annual Dividend of Five per Cent., payable on demand.

A. H. WATTON, Secretary.

PACIFIC BANK, NEW-YORK Jan. 20, 1874.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE DECLARED a Quarterly Dividend of Three per Cent., payable on and after the 2d day of February.

R. BUCK, Cashier.

OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN INSURANCE CO., No. 108 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK, Jan. 20, 1874.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE THIS day declared a Dividend of Five (5) per Cent., payable on demand. SAMUEL J. YOUNG, Secretary.

OFFICE HOWARD INSURANCE COMPANY, No. 66 WALL ST., NEW-YORK, Jan. 14, 1874.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE THIS day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of Five per Cent. on the capital stock of the company, payable on demand. THEO. KEELER, Secretary.

SAVINGS BANKS.

THE BANK FOR SAVINGS,

No. 67 BLEECKER ST., (opposite Crosby st.,)

NEW-YORK, Jan. 19, 1874.

The Board of Trustees have this day declared the usual interest, under the provision of the by-laws, for the last six months ending the 31st December, as follows:

At the rate of Five per Cent. per annum on all sums of five dollars and under five hundred dollars, and on Four per Cent. per annum on all sums amounting to five hundred dollars and upward, payable on and after the third Monday (being the 19th) of this month.

Also, an extra interest, being in addition and precisely equal in amount to the said half-yearly interest, and calculated on the same principle.

This interest is carried at once to the credit of depositors as principal on the 1st inst., where it stands exactly as a deposit.

It will be entered on the pass-books at any time when required on and after the 19th inst.

CHARLES R. SWORDS, Secretary.

METROPOLITAN SAVINGS BANK,

NOS. 1 AND 3 3D AV.,

Opposite Cooper Institute.

INTEREST at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum on all sums entitled thereto will be paid to depositors on and after Jan. 21, or, if not withdrawn, will be added to the account, and will draw interest from Jan. 1.

DEPOSITS made now draw interest from Jan. 1.

By order of Board of Trustees.

ISAAC T. SMITH, President.

PHILIP W. ENGS, A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN, } Vice Presidents.

T. W. LILLIE, Secretary.

UNION DIME SAVINGS BANK,

Nos. 396 and 398 Canal st., corner Laight.

Open daily from 10 to 3, and Monday evenings 5 to 7.

Assets, Over Ten Million Dollars.

Surplus, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars.

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST ALLOWED.

Books in English, French, and German.

G. S. CHAPIN, Treasurer. H. J. HAINES, President.

T. S. ARMOUR, Secretary.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE SEAMEN'S BANK FOR SAVINGS, Nos. 74 and 76 Wall st., have ordered that interest be paid to depositors entitled thereto, for the six months ending 31st ult., as follows:

On sums of $500 and under, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and

On sums exceeding $500, at the rate of five per cent. per annum. Also, an extra interest of the same amount, payable on and after MONDAY, 19th inst.

WM. H. MACY, President.

JOHN H. BOYNTON, Secretary.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 8, 1874.

ORIENTAL SAVINGS BANK,

No. 430 GRAND ST., between Attorney and Ridge.

Money deposited before Feb. 2 will draw interest from Feb. 1.

WM. P. BUCKMASTER, President.

Bernard Hoe, Geo. C. Boutelle, } Vice Presidents.

SAVINGS BANKS.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION

NO. 96 WARREN ST., NEW-YORK.

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on all sums. Interest commences from 1st of January, April

SHIPPING.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAM-SHIP LINE.
GREAT REDUCTION IN RATES OF FREIGHT AND PASSAGE.
The magnificent steam-ships of this line will leave Pier No. 42 North River, New-York, for Aspinwall, at 12 o'clock noon, as follows:
Jan. 28—ACAPULCO, Capt. GRAY, for passengers and freight.
Feb. 7—RISING STAR, Capt. JONES, for freight only.
Feb. 14—COLON, Capt. W. HUDSON, for passengers and freight.
Connecting at Panama with the large and splendid steam-ships of this Line for San Francisco, and also connecting at the isthmus with steamers for Central American and South Pacific ports.
RATES OF PASSAGE.
New-York to San Francisco, cabin, $100, or $110, currency, according to location.
New-York to San Francisco, steerage, $50, currency.
Steamers of this line for Japan and China leave San Francisco on the 1st of every month.
For freight and passage, or other information, apply at the Company's office, Pier No. 42 North River, foot of Canal st., New-York. H. J. BULLAY,
ROYAL HAVEN, Superintendent.
Vice President and Managing Director.

INMAN LINE FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.
Royal Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows:
CITY OF BRUSSELS.....Saturday, Jan. 24, 10 A. M.
CITY OF MONTREAL.....Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 P. M.
CITY OF CHESTER.....Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 A. M.
CITY OF NEW-YORK.....Saturday, Feb. 14, 2 P. M.
CITY OF ANTWERP.....Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 A. M.
CITY OF BROOKLYN.....Saturday, Feb. 28, 2 P. M.
and each succeeding SATURDAY and THURSDAY, from Pier No. 45 North River.
RATES OF PASSAGE.
CABIN, $70, $80, and $90, gold, according to accommodation. Round trip tickets at low rates.
STEERAGE, to Liverpool, Queenstown, Glasgow, Londonderry, London, Bristol or Cardiff, $30. Prepaid certificates, $32, currency.
Passengers also forwarded to Havre, Hamburg, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Paris, at reduced rates.
Drafts issued at lowest rates.
For Cabin Passage and general business apply at the Company's office, No. 15 Broadway.
For Steerage Passage, at No. 33 Broadway or Pier No. 45 North River. JOHN 3. DALE, Agent.
O'DONNELL & FAULK, No. 402 Chestnut st., Philadelphia.
M. S. CREAGH, No. 102 State st., Boston.
P. C. BROWN, No. 32 South Clark st., corner Lake st., Chicago.
WM. INMAN, Liverpool, and No. 9 Rue Scribe, Paris.

WHITE STAR LINE,
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL, CARRYING UNITED STATES MAIL.
NEW AND FULL-POWERED STEAM-SHIPS.
Sailing from New-York on SATURDAYS, from Liverpool on THURSDAYS, calling at Cork Harbor each way.
ADRIATIC.....SATURDAY, Jan. 24, at 10 A. M.
CELTIC.....SATURDAY, Jan. 31, at 9 P. M.
BALTIC.....SATURDAY, Feb. 7, at 3 P. M.
OCEANIC.....SATURDAY, Feb. 14, at 3 P. M.
From White Star Dock, Pavonia Ferry, Jersey City.
Passenger accommodations (for all classes) unrivaled, combining
SAFETY, SPEED, AND COMFORT.
Saloon, State-rooms, Smoking-room and Bath-rooms in MIDSHIP section, where least motion is felt. Surgeons and stewardesses accompany these steamers.
Rates—Saloon, $80, gold; return tickets, $140, gold; steerage, $30, currency. Those wishing to send for friends from the old country can now obtain steerage prepaid certificates, $32, currency.
Passengers booked to or from all parts of America, to Paris, Hamburg, Norway, Sweden, India, Australia, China, &c.
Drafts from £1 upward.
For inspection of plans and other information apply at the Company's offices, No. 19 Broadway, New-York.
E. J. CORTIS, Agent.

CUNARD LINE.
NOTICE.
With the view of diminishing the chances of collision, the steamers of this line will henceforth take a specified course for all seasons of the year.
On the outward passage from Queenstown to New-York or Boston crossing meridian of 50 at 43 latitude, or nothing to the north of 43.
On the homeward passage, crossing the meridian of 50 at 42 latitude, or nothing to the north of 42.

THE BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL STEAM SHIPS, BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND LIVERPOOL, CALLING AT CORK HARBOR.

FROM NEW-YORK.	FROM BOSTON.
*Russia.....Wednesday, Jan. 21	Marathon, Saturday, Jan. 24
Java.....Wednesday, Jan. 28	Parthia, Saturday, Jan. 31
Abyssinia.....Wed'y, Feb. 4	Atlas, Saturday, Feb. 7
Calabria.....Wed'day, Feb. 11	Hecla, Saturday, Feb. 14
Algeria.....Wed'day, Feb. 18	Olympus, Saturday, Feb. 21

And every following WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY from New-York. Steamers marked thus * do not carry steerage passengers. Cabin, $80, $100, and $130, gold, according to accommodation. Tickets to Paris, $15, gold, additional. Return tickets on favorable terms. Steerage, $30, currency. Steerage tickets from Liverpool and Queenstown and all parts of Europe at low rates. Through bills of lading given for Belfast, Glasgow, Havre, Antwerp, and other ports in the Continent, and for Mediterranean ports. For freight and cabin passage apply at the Company's office, No. 4 Bowling green. For steerage passage at No. 111 Broadway, Trinity Building.
CHAS. G. FRANCKLYN, Agent.

PASSENGERS PER STEAM-SHIP RUSSIA can book from Cunard Wharf, foot of Grand st., Jersey City, at 8 A. M., on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21, 1874.
CHAS. G. FRANCKLYN,
No. 4 Bowling green, New-York.

EAGLE LINE.

UNITED STATES MAIL STEAM-SHIPS.
TO PLYMOUTH, CHERBOURG AND HAMBURG.
The elegant Clyde-built iron Steam-ships will sail from New-York as follows:
HERDER, Capt. Fischer.....Jan. 27
GOETHE, Capt. Wilson.....Feb. 10
SCHILLER, Capt. Thomsen.....Feb. 24
From Eagle Line pier, foot of 1st st., Hoboken. Rates of passage to
PLYMOUTH, LONDON, CHERBOURG, AND HAMBURG:
Cabin, first saloon, $120, gold; second saloon, $72, gold; steerage, $30, gold. Prepaid tickets from Hamburg, $35, currency.
The first and second saloons are on the same deck. The steerage is divided into sections for six to twenty persons, well lighted, and provided with dining tables.
For freight apply to FUNCH, EDYE & CO., No. 27 South William st. For passage
Apply to RANAFTL, ACHOD & KUHNE, General Agents, No. 113 Broadway.

GREAT WESTERN STEAM-SHIP LINE.

NEW-YORK TO BRISTOL, ENG., DIRECT.
Taking goods and passengers for London, Cardiff, Newport, Gloucester, and all parts in England.
The steamers of this line will sail from Pier No. 18, East River, as follows:
ARAGON, Western.....Wednesday, Feb. 4
GREAT WESTERN, Stewart.....Saturday, Feb. 21
CORNWALL, Gibson, to follow.
Cabin passage, $70 currency; intermediate, $45 currency; steerage, $30 currency. Parties wishing to send for their friends can obtain prepaid certificates. Drafts for £1 and upward. For freight or passage apply to
E. E. MORGAN'S SONS,
No. 70 South st., New-York.

NATIONAL LINE.

NOTICE.—This Company takes the risk of insurance (up to $500,000 in gold) on each of its steamers, thus giving passengers the best possible guarantee for safety and avoidance of danger at sea.
The most southerly route has *always* been adopted by this company to avoid ice and headlands.
From Piers Nos. 44 and 47 North River.
From New-York. From Queenstown.
Greece.Sat., Jan. 24, 10 A. M. Spain, Sat., Feb. 7, 9 A. M.
Italy...Sat., Jan. 31, 3 P. M. Canada, Sat., Feb. 14, 3 P. M.
FORTNIGHTLY TO LONDON DIRECT.
HOLLAND, Bragg.....Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 3 P. M.
Cabin passage, $70 and $80, currency. Steerage, $29, curren y. Return tickets at reduced rates. Prepaid steerage tickets from Liverpool at the lowest rates. Apply at the company's office, No. 69 Broadway.
F. W. J. HURST, Manager.

ONLY DIRECT LINE TO FRANCE.
THE GENERAL TRANSATLANTIC COMPANY'S MAIL STEAM-SHIPS BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND HAVRE, CALLING AT BREST.
The splendid vessels on this favorite route for the Continent will sail from Pier No. 50 North River as follows:
PEREIRE.....DACRE.....Saturday, Jan. 24
LAFAYETTE.....COSSAS.....Saturday, Feb. 7
EUROPE.....LEMAIRE.....Saturday, Feb. 21

PRICE OF PASSAGE IN GOLD (including wine) TO BREST OR HAVRE.
First cabin.....$125 | Second cabin.....$75
Excursion tickets at reduced rates.
American travelers going to, or returning from, the Continent of Europe, by taking this line, avoid both transit by English railway and the discomforts of crossing the Channel, besides saving time, trouble, and expense.
GEORGE MACKENZIE, Agent,
No. 58 Broadway.

FOR LIVERPOOL.
(VIA QUEENSTOWN.)
CARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAILS.
THE LIVERPOOL AND GREAT WESTERN STEAM COMPANY will dispatch one of their first-class full-power iron screw steam-ships from
PIER NO. 40 NORTH RIVER, EVERY TUESDAY, as follows:
IDAHO, Capt. Moore.....Jan. 27, 1:30 P. M.
MANHATTAN, Capt. PRICE.....Feb. 3, 7 A. M.
MINNESOTA, Capt. BENDOR.....Feb. 10, 1:30 P. M.
WISCONSIN, Capt. FREEMAN.....Feb. 17, 6:30 A. M.
NEVADA, Capt. FORSYTH.....Feb. 24, 12 M.
WYOMING, Capt. GUARD.....March 3, 3 P. M.
Cabin passage, $80, gold.
Steerage passage, (Office No. 29 Broadway,) $30, currency.
For freight or cabin passage apply to
WILLIAMS & GUION, No. 63 Wall st.

ATLAS MAIL LINE.
BI-MONTHLY SERVICE TO HAYTI, VENEZUELA, CURACOA, MARACAIBO, JAMAICA, AND COLOMBIA.
First-class full-powered English-built iron screw steamers, from Pier No. 12 North River.
For HAYTI, CURACOA, VENEZUELA, and PORTO RICO.
CLARIBEL.....Jan. 30.
CORINTH.....Feb. 20.
For JAMAICA AND COLOMBIA.
ATLAS.....Jan. 30.
ETNA.....Feb. 17.
First-class passenger accommodation.
PIM, FORWOOD & CO., Agents.
Nos. 56 Wall and 59 Pine sts.

FOR HAVANA.
NASSAU, PROGRESO, AND VERA CRUZ.
New-York and Mexican Mail Steam-ship Line,
Leaving Pier No. 3 North River, at 3 P. M.
CITY OF HAVANA, (Havana direct).....Jan. 22
CITY OF NEW-YORK, (Havana direct).....Jan. 29
CITY OF MEXICO, (Havana and Mexico).....Jan. 31
CITY OF MERIDA, (Havana via Nassau).....Feb. 5
CUBA, (Havana direct).....Feb. 7
For freight or passage apply to
F. ALEXANDRE & SONS, No. 33 Broadway.

FOR NASSAU, N. P.,
STEAM-SHIP CITY OF MERIDA
Will leave Pier No. 3 North River, Feb. 5, at 3 P. M.
F. ALEXANDRE & SONS, No. 33 Broadway.

NOTICE TO TRAVELERS.
Families or gentlemen going to travel on the Continent of Europe, who can afford the expense of a courier, should never leave Paris without one. Their services are invaluable in relieving the traveler from multiplied trouble and vexation respecting passports, exhibition of same and conveyance of luggage, in securing the best rooms and conveyance in procuring the travelers from railway stations, in procuring the travelers from railway stations, in case of inability of passengers to attend to their baggage, and in many other ways. Such a courier can be obtained at the office of THOMAS COOK & SON, No. 261 Broadway, New-York, and at their offices in London, Paris, Florence, Venice, Rome, Naples, Cairo, Alexandria, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Athens, Smyrna, Vienna, Berlin, Frankfort, Cologne, Geneva, Lucerne, Interlaken, Chamouni, Milan, Turin, Genoa, Pisa, Leghorn, Ancona, Perugia, Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Oporto, Madrid, Seville, Gibraltar, Malaga, Algiers, Constantine, Tunis, Malta, Corfu, Patras, Trieste, Munich, Salzburg, Ischl, Innspruck, Hamburg, Dresden, Prague, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Christiania, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Nijni Novgorod, Odessa, Kieff, Warsaw, Berne, Basle, Zurich, Heidelberg, Baden-Baden, Wiesbaden, Coblentz, Ems, Hanover, Cassel, Brunswick, Leipsic, Berlin, Stettin, Dantzic, Konigsberg, Wilna, Riga, Pesth, Buda, Bucharest

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

THE STUYVESANT BANK.

IMPORTANT DECISION BY JUDGE BLATCHFORD—PREFERENTIAL PAYMENTS IN BANKRUPTCY.

Judge Blatchford yesterday rendered an important decision in the matter of the bankruptcy of the Stuyvesant Bank, which came up in the cases of the Sixpenny Savings Bank and the New-York Savings Bank, who seek to obtain a priority of payment of their claims against the bankrupt for money deposited as follows:

The Sixpenny Savings Bank proved against the estate of Stuyvesant Bank a claim for $23,261 06, with interest at the rate of five per cent. from the 11th of October, 1871. In the proof of debt the Sixpenny Savings Bank claims that under the State laws it has a valid and first lien on the bankrupt's estate, and in the distribution of the assets is entitled to a priority of payment over all other creditors, except the New-York Savings Bank, on the ground that the money owing to them was deposited with the bankrupts on the express agreement that they, the Sixpenny Savings Bank, should be entitled to such priority under the acts of April 15, 1853, and of April 10, 1858, and that these acts entered into and formed a part of the contract under which the deposit or loan was made with the bankrupt. The New-York Savings Bank proved against the bankrupt's estate a claim for the sum of $20,020 41, with interest at the rate of seven per cent. from the 11th of October, 1871. It is claimed on the part of the bank that it also, under the acts above referred to and an agreement entered into with the bankrupts in conjunction therewith, is entitled to the claim paid in full out of the assets before payment is made to other creditors not entitled by law to a preference. I have given much consideration to the question involved, especially in view of the fact that, at a prior stage of these proceedings, I indicated an opinion in support of the claims of the savings bank when the question was submitted to me on written briefs. But oral evidence and reargument and a full consideration of the provisions of the Bankruptcy act have led me to the conclusion that those claims cannot be allowed. I do not think that these claims can, under the terms of the State act, be properly considered as rights of property entering in or adhering to the property of the bankrupt. The savings banks, it is true, made contracts with the bankrupt, but these contracts were mere contracts for the making of deposits and the paying of interest thereon. No part of the State act gives any lien for such deposits on any assets of the bankrupt. These assets, consisting in part of the moneys so deposited, could be dealt with and disposed of by the bankrupt free from any lien charge, or incumbrance thereon arising out of such contracts, and the purposes contemplated by the act interfere with the disposition of the assets of the bankrupt until insolvency occurs, and then a rule for the application of such assets, in the distribution of the estate of the bankrupt, as the estate of an insolvent debtor is created by the fourth section of the State act of 1853. But that rule establishes in favor of the savings bank no such right in the property of the bankrupt that such property passes, under the Bankruptcy act, into the hands of the assignee, subject to such interest. The twenty-eighth section of the present act provides that certain claims shall be entitled to priority or preference, and to be paid in full in the following order.' Then follow five classes. The fifth is 'all debts due to any persons who, by the laws of the United States, are entitled to a priority or preference, though not in like manner as if this act had not been passed.' This is limited to priorities or preferences created by the laws of a State. Under it the State could have no priority for debts due to it which were not specific, and but for the provision in the third class of priorities for such debts due to the State there could be no priority for such debts. But such priorities or preferences created by State laws in the distribution of insolvents' estates are not liens or securities of rights or interests in property. If so, they are not saved by the general scope of the Bankruptcy act, and they are not recognized by the twenty-eighth section. The claims to priority on the part of the savings banks must be disallowed."

T. Hughson appeared for the New-York Savings Bank, D. Noble Rowan for the Sixpenny Savings Bank, and T. N. Bangs for the assignee in bankruptcy.

THE EMIGRATION COMMISSION.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS—THE TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Commissioners of Emigration met yesterday, Mr. Huribut in the chair. On the recommendation of the Ward's Island Committee, Dr. D. H. Kitchen was appointed physician to the Insane Asylum at a salary of $2,000 per annum. Peter Shields was appointed resident agent for the Commission at Poughkeepsie at a salary of $300 a year, and J. Sowartz to a like office at Syracuse at the same salary. Francis Doran was appointed nightwatchman at Ward's Island in room of John F. Cleary, resigned. The Chief Clerk of the Labor Bureau having been recently discharged it was decided on motion of Mr. Kauffman not to fill the office at present. On motion of Mr. Starr the office of Second Clerk in the Information Bureau was ordered to be abolished from the 1st February next. The contract for transportation of emigrant's baggage with Albertson & Biglin was revoked. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Children's Aid Society, stating that they could find homes in the West for orphan children, and that if the Commissioners would provide suitable clothing the society would take charge of a number of children now on Ward's Island. Mr. Lynch opposed granting the application. They should, he said, keep the children in the State, and not send them to the West. Mr. Kauffman thought that they should see to the welfare of the children and avail themselves of the offer. He was aware that the Children's Aid Society had rendered a vast amount of good by procuring homes in comfortable situations for a large number of children. He moved that the question as to the right of the board to send children intrusted to them out of the State be referred to the counsel of the board. The motion was agreed to, after which the Chairman remarked that it would be a great deal better for the children to be in good families than to remain on Ward's Island.

The Treasurer submitted his annual report for the year 1873. The balance remaining on 1st January, 1873, was $1,643 25; the amount received during the year for commutation fees was $402,193 50; interest and sale of bonds could, $48,708 79; sale of property, $5,415 83; forwarding account, $1,330 97; for premises sublet at Albany, $231; insurance premiums and commissions returned, $127 74; received for support of illegitimate children, $1,545 65; received for uniforms, $638 50; drawn from Emigrant Industrial Bank, $1,000; received from inmates, $333; State institutions, $30 20; total receipts, $463,706 53. The disbursements were $466,108 22, of which $215,086 85 was for Ward's Island; $133,151 90 for Castle Garden account; $56,325 96 for building the lunatic asylum on Ward's Island; $4,662 50 for the Chapel; $7,560 83 forwarding account; $24,933 64 paid to County poor-houses for support of destitute emigrants; $7,684 60 paid to various institutions for care of sick and destitute; $1,989 61 for insurances, and $6,317 51 for temporary relief and support of illegitimate children. The amount overdrawn from the Chamberlain was $2,401 61, and the cash in hands of Treasurer at the close of the year was $372 29.

The annual report of the Commissioners was submitted for signature. They ask for legislation to acquire a right to the water front of Ward's Island, and they recommend that the right to vote on all questions coming before the commission be extended to the Presidents of the Irish and German Emigrant Societies, who are ex-officio members of the board.

IMPORTANT ARREST OF BURGLARS.

Two young men were on Sunday morning discovered by Officer Harley, of the Twelfth Precinct, secreting a large bundle in the hay-loft over the stable of Terence McGuire in One Hundred and Eleventh street, near Third avenue. After their departure the officer inspected the bundle, and found it contained sixty dozen merino undershirts and other articles of men's underwear. A short time afterward one of the men was seen to enter the stable with a boy. He was arrested when he came out, and on the boy was found a number of the shirts. The prisoner proved to be John Collins. His confederate, Peter F. Dunn, was during the day also arrested. They were taken before Justice Kasmire, and committed for further examination. Yesterday Officer Harley took into custody two other members of the same gang, named Daniel Lewis, alias "Rubber," and Lawrence Meyers, the latter being a well-known thief. The goods have not yet been identified. The Police believe them to be the proceeds of a burglary committed in some town along the line of the New-Haven or Harlem Railroads. Six employes of these companies are suspected of complicity, and will be arrested.... John J. Blair, aged nineteen, a painter by trade, was yesterday committed for trial by Judge Kasmire, at the Harlem Police Court, on a charge of burglariously entering the grocery store of Lazarus Wolfe, at No. 2,250 Third avenue, and stealing therefrom clothing worth $300. When arrested by Officer Levy, of the Twelfth Precinct, a coat stolen from Wolfe was found on his back and four pawn-tickets in his pockets, together with a number of burglar's implements.

A HIGHWAY ROBBER SENT TO STATE PRISON.

Thomas Cummings, charged with highway robbery, was placed on trial in the Court of General Sessions yesterday, before Judge Sutherland, Assistant District Attorney Rollins prosecuting. Theodore Tuberty, the complainant, testified that on Christmas night he was met in Elizabeth street by the prisoner and another man, who knocked him down, dragged him into a saloon, searched his pockets, which, as it happened, contained no money, and took from his person a Masonic manual valued at $4.50. The prisoner, who emphatically denied the robbery, admitted in the course of Assistant District Attorney Rollins' cross-examination, that he had been in custody under the name of Thomas Connolly for being connected with a forged bond, but had been discharged. The prisoner was found guilty of an attempted robbery, and sent to State Prison for five years.

POLICE MATTERS.

Thomas McGuire and John Adams, arrested on the 9th of November last for stabbing Jacob Frank, of No. 178 Lexington avenue, were yesterday taken before Justice Silverwood, at Jefferson Market, and charged by Mr. Frank, who had hardly recovered from his wounds, with feloniously assaulting him with a knife, inflicting several severe wounds. The prisoners were held to bail....John Galvin, the ex-keeper of the Tombs and also of the Penitentiary, was again before Justice Kilbreth, at Jefferson Market Police Court. He was fully identified by Adolph Hauch, the jeweler of Ninth avenue, who was robbed and gagged, as the man who was seen prowling around the store on the night of the robbery, and afterward joining the robbers when they had done their work. He was committed for trial. The eighteen prisoners, black and white, whom the Police captured in a den on the south-west corner of Grand street and South Fifth avenue, Monday night, were arraigned before Justice Sherwood, at Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday. As nothing could be proved against any of the prisoners they were all discharged.

SAILORS' STRIKE.

DEPARTURE OF THE CITY OF PANAMA WITH A CREW OF NON-SOCIETY MEN.

The Pacific Mail steamer City of Panama shipped a crew yesterday and proceeded to sea. It appears that her detention on Saturday was not owing to the strike of the coal-passers and firemen, but rather to the fact that being a new ship, she was not in all respects prepared to undertake the voyage to Aspinwall. The task of providing a crew as a substitute for the strikers was carried out by Deputy H. E. Duncan, of the United States Shipping Commission Department. The facts in connection with this strike, and the procurement of a substitute crew, appear to be as follows: It was felt by some of the steam-ship companies that the labors of the coal-passers and firemen were not worth as much during the Winter as during the Summer months, and accordingly the question of a reduction of wages during the Winter came to the surface. Mr. Clyde's line, which runs to Havana, was the first to take a practical step in the matter, by reducing the wages of the coal-passers from $40 to $35, and of the firemen from $50 to $40. Mr. Alexandre's line, which also runs to Havana, followed, and then the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company proposed a similar reduction, promising to raise the wages to their usual standard in the Summer. The City of Panama had a full crew when this announcement was made, but as soon as they heard of the intention of the company they immediately struck, and refused to go on the vessel. It was then arranged between Mr. Hatch, the managing Director of the company, Mr. Bullay, the Superintendent, and Mr. H. E. Duncan that a new crew should be provided, and that the vessel should be made ready to proceed to sea. Accordingly articles were opened on Thursday and a full crew of non-society men was procured. As mentioned above, it was the intention that the steamer should have sailed on Saturday. She was not, however, prepared, but every member of the crew was in attendance that morning at the offices of the United States Shipping Commission. They there again in attendance yesterday morning, and were conveyed in a tug-boat from the foot of Market street and placed on board the steamer at Pier No. 42. The services of five officers were procured from the Police steam-boat Seneca in anticipation of any possible disturbance. Several officers of the precinct were in attendance at the pier, and the first step taken was to have it cleared. There was a large number of sailors, apparently society men, present, and they indicated their displeasure at the entire proceeding very decidedly; so far as emphatic language was concerned, but the presence of the Police force prevented any disturbance. The crew having been shipped, and all things made right, the City of Panama sailed at 12 o'clock.

A TERRIBLE HOMICIDE IN NEW-JERSEY.

The township of Reaville, Hunterdon County, N. J., is greatly excited in consequence of a cold-blooded and deliberate murder perpetrated in that neighborhood a few days ago. In consequence of the isolated position of the locality in which the crime was committed several days elapsed before the particulars of the affair became known. A colored man named Theodore Cruise, Sr., lives in a small hut on Sourland Mountain, in East Amerell township, and his place is the frequent resort of the negroes from the surrounding country. One night last week a disturbance took place at one of these gatherings, and a son of Cruise ran out to the door and, arming himself with a club, challenged any one of the party to come out and fight him. His mother went out to quiet him, but he was insensible to her appeals, and finally struck her a terrific blow on the head with the club, which laid her prostrate at his feet. He then fled hurriedly to the woods. The woman lay unconscious for some time, and it was thought she was dead. Israel Morocco, Cruise's half brother, finding all efforts to restore animation futile, exclaimed, "He has killed my mother, and I will kill him." Morocco then went into the house, and arming himself with a carving knife, started off in search of the supposed murderer, accompanied by a negro named George Thompson. They soon found the fugitive concealed in a cedar grove about half a mile from the hut, and Morocco at once attacked him, and after beating him severely stabbed him with the knife, inflicting a mortal wound. Leaving the victim, Morocco and Thompson returned to the house only to find that Mrs. Cruise, whom they had supposed to be dead, was entirely recovered and comparatively uninjured. In the meantime Cruise succeeded in dragging himself from the grove to his own house, and his wife endeavored to stanch the flow of blood. He lingered two days and a half, and just previous to his death made a sworn deposition before Robert W. Hunt, a Justice of the Peace, that Morocco had killed him. Morocco and Thompson were arrested and lodged in jail to answer the charge of murder. Justice Hunt held an inquest on the body of the murdered man, and the jury returned a verdict that "Theodore Cruise, Jr., came to his death by the hands of Israel Morocco, aided and abetted by one George Thompson." The prisoners will be tried at the April term of court.

NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

The business of the present session of the New-Jersey Legislature has now commenced in earnest, and bills are rapidly being presented from every portion of the State. Such bills as have already been presented are nearly all of a private nature, with a few of public importance and interest. In the Senate yesterday an act was introduced to secure to railroad employes payment for their labor. This was, doubtless, suggested by the present trouble on the New-Jersey Southern Road. The act provides that employes may bring suit for their wages after ten days' notice, and on recovering judgment they can get their pay out of any money or property in the hands of agents, receivers, or other officers of the road, their claims to take precedence of any other obligations of the company. The only other bill introduced was one to annex parts of Westfield and Plainfield, in Union County, to Clark township. Ten dollars' worth of postage stamps were voted to each Senator, and it was resolved that all official documents sent by members be stamped by the State Treasurer. A resolution was adopted calling upon the Representatives of the State in Congress to vote for the bill appropriating $1,000,000 for furnishing the militia with arms. In the House, Mr. Kirk introduced a supplement to the Landlord and Tenant act, making it imperative on the landlord to rebuild a house that has been destroyed by fire, or else to make a suitable deduction from the rent. Mr. Morrow, of the Judiciary Committee, presented an adverse report on the bill to repeal the act compelling brokers and real estate agents to have a written contract with their customers. The report was accepted, and the recommendation adopted. No other business of importance was transacted.

OFFICIAL DISHONESTY ON LONG ISLAND.

William Griffiths and Michael Delahanty, formerly Collectors of Taxes for School District No. 10, of Newtown, (Woodside,) charged with malfeasance in office, or rather with obtaining money under false pretenses, have been prosecuted before Justice Snedeker, at Jamaica. A man named Joseph Rice was prosecuted in connection with Griffiths. The complaint is in substance as follows: The defendant, Delahanty, was Collector in the district in 1872, and it is alleged that he presented a bill for taxes to the Long Island Railroad Company for $75, and received the money, when the property of the company was not on the assessment-roll. Griffiths and Rice were charged with the same offense, Griffiths being Collector for 1873. He, as alleged, presented a bill to the Long Island Railroad Company for taxes amounting to $60, which was paid, although the company was not assessed. In neither case was any return of the money made. Upon the examination Rice was discharged, Griffiths was held to await the action of the Grand Jury, and the case of Delahanty was adjourned until Friday. Other charges are pending against the parties.

THE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The delegates elect to the Republican Central Committee assembled last evening at Republican Hall, corner Twenty-third street and Broadway. They were called to order by Hon. Hugh Gardner, and Joel W. Mason was unanimously elected temporary Chairman. When the roll of the delegates was called it was found that there were contesting delegations from the First, Sixth, and Fifteenth Assembly Districts, and also a dispute concerning the election of several delegates from the Twenty-first District. The questions involved were referred to a Committee on Contested Seats, consisting of Messrs. Jacob M. Patterson, Benj. K. Phelps, Daniel E. Crowley, Gen. Jos. C. Pinckney, and Horace M. Ruggles. Judge White referred to the fact of the recent annexation of the Westchester towns now forming the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards of the City, and said that it was necessary that there should be Republican organizations in them, with a representation in the Central Committee. This suggestion was also referred to the Committee on Contested Seats, which is to meet on Friday next. The meeting then adjourned subject to the call of two weeks.

"WONDERS OF THE STAR DEPTHS."

LECTURE BY PROF. PROCTOR—THE FIFTH OF THE SERIES ON ASTRONOMY.

Last night Prof. Proctor delivered the fifth of his series of lectures on astronomy at Association Hall, the particular subject chosen being "Wonders of the Star Depths." There was a crowded audience. The hall was darkened, as it was necessary to give effect to the lecture by the exhibition of a number of telescopic views of the stellar system. Prof. Proctor remarked that in looking at the sky on a clear, calm night, when all the stars shone in the immeasurable heavens, one was impressed with the thought that a solemn calm reigned in those infinite depths. But how different was the reality! Where there seemed to be rest there was an activity, compared with which all the forms of life and energy on our earth were utterly insignificant. Every one of those stars that seemed still was traveling through space many miles in every second of time. He reminded them, in his first lecture, of the activity that prevailed in the sun—a tumult and energy compared with which all the forms of uproar known to us were but as silence. Every one of the stars was a sun of smaller uproar, and, therefore, they would see how different was the reality from that which the mind presented itself to. In looking at the heavens we looked not at a scene of perfect tranquillity, but one of stupendous activity. We only knew the distance of about nine or ten stars; indeed, he might say that there was only one star whose distance might be regarded as determined. The problem of the astronomer in determining the distance of the stars was one of stupendous difficulty. Alpha Centauri, the star whose distance had been determined, was 210,000 times further away than the sun. We had no means of measuring the disc of stars. In measuring the light of the star he had named, it had been found to shine with the seventeen thousandth millionth part of the sun's brightness. It shone three times as bright as the sun would shine if it were placed beside it. The diameter was one and a half times and the volume five times more than the sun's, always supposing that a square mile of its surface gave out as much light as a square mile of the sun's surface. There was another star, of which he might speak as the prince of stars—the glorious Sirius. Of all the objects whose dimensions had been indicated to us, that star was the king. It shone four times as brightly as the star Alpha Centauri, and was five times as far away, so that, having regard to their relative distance, its actual brightness was a hundred times more. It gave out three hundred times more light than the sun, and its volume exceeded that of the sun two thousand times. Spectroscopic analysis had enabled us to say that the stars were suns like our own. The lecturer then exhibited "Secchi's Types of the Fixed Stars," and remarked that Father Secchi's labors were only the beginning of the work subsequently carried on by Dr. Huggins, of England, and Miller, who assisted him. They were not satisfied with ascertaining the stars' spectra, but compared the lines of particular chemical elements, and showed that iron existed in stars one hundred million times further from us than the sun. Of that fact the astronomer was as sure as if he had the evidence of it in the laboratory. He now passed to spectroscopic analysis of the cause of double-colored stars. Among the stars in the heavens some, when examined by telescopes, were shown to be double, and the question which suggested itself was, Was the color inherent in the star's light, or was it produced by the cutting off of a portion of the starlight by the vaporous envelope? It was a matter of great interest to determine in what way colored stars had various colors given to them. This had been done, and it was proved that they owed their color to the clouds of the envelopes that surrounded them. Nebula, or star-dust, next came to be considered, and after referring to the Great Orion nebula, the picture of which was obtained by Sir John Herschel, with his great telescope, at the Cape of Good Hope, the lecturer took occasion, incidentally, to refer to the project of Mr. Clarke, the celebrated optician, to construct a telescope five feet in aperture, and to meet the cost of which a million dollars are wanted. He was only expressing the opinion of English astronomers when he asserted that Mr. Clarke was the greatest of living telescope-makers, and he hoped that that gentleman would live to carry out his idea. He then proceeded to say that if time and opportunity were given to him he would chart the heavens. He would first survey the whole heavens with one telescope, counting the number of stars in one direction, mapping the results down, and indicating where the stars were shown by that telescope to be either richly or poorly distributed. He would then do the same with a smaller telescope and see whether the rich or poor regions shown by one telescope corresponded with those shown by another. There was a want of laborers in the work of the survey of the heavens, but he trusted that that want would soon be supplied. We could not reach to the bounds of the star system in any direction; we should ever find fresh fields of stars brought to view as our power was penetrated; we should find that the star system was in reality illimitable. We could speak of these things, but it was not given to man to conceive them. The astronomer might spread out the figures that indicated these wonders, but he could not conceive them, nor could he make others conceive them.

A CONTEMPTIBLE THEFT.

In the Court of General Sessions, yesterday, before Judge Sutherland, William Foster was placed on trial charged with a larceny of the most contemptible kind. It appeared from the evidence that on the night of the 23d December a benefit party was tendered to a distressed woman named Mrs. Conroy, at a hall on 9th avenue, between Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh streets. The sum of $88, contributed by the friends of the poor woman, which was lying on a table, was snatched by the prisoner, who bolted for the door. He was seen, however, by Thomas Flynn, one of the managers of the benefit, who pursued him and brought him back. On being searched no money was found on Foster's person, but $47 was found on the floor beneath his chair. Assistant District Attorney Rollins made an appeal to conviction, then the jury, notwithstanding, acquitted the prisoner. Judge Sutherland, in discharging Foster, said he believed he was guilty and ought to have been committed. He had had a narrow escape, having been acquitted through a doubt raised in the minds of the jury, and should be careful never again to commit such an act.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday, Judge Sutherland presiding, Assistant District Attorney Rollins prosecuting, James McCann, indicted for feloniously assaulting Robert Seymour, of No. 92 Columbia street, with a stone, pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and was sent to the Penitentiary for one year....Two youths, named Carl Wiseman and John Fox, pleaded guilty to petit larceny, and were sent to the House of Refuge....James W. Brady, a Fourth Ward boatman, indicted for feloniously assaulting a Greek sailor, named Jacob Papolina, by shooting him in the hip with a pistol-ball, in Cherry street, on the night of the 22d December, was placed on trial. The evidence of several witnesses for the defense tended to show that the Greek was the aggressor, and had attempted to stab Brady, who discharged the pistol in order to protect himself. The jury, after considerable deliberation, found the prisoner guilty of assault with intent to do bodily harm, and recommended him to the mercy of the court. He was sent to State Prison for two years and six months.

A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS.

Richard McHale, aged ten years, of No. 2 Gansevoort street, was run over last evening by car No. 42, of the Eighth Avenue Railroad, driven by Joseph Porter, and his right leg was badly crushed. ....Annie Cullen, aged twenty-five, of No. 103 Nelson street, Brooklyn, fell through the coal-hole at No. 1591 Broadway, and fractured her left leg....While Wm. H. Clark, aged nineteen, of No. 151 Hayward street, Brooklyn, was exercising on a trapeze at No. 299½ Broadway, he fell, and his left leg was fractured....Edward Hunt, aged thirty-five, of No. 288 Smith street, Brooklyn, fell at the corner of Allen and Rivington streets, and fractured his left leg....The nude remains of an unknown man were found, last evening, floating in the Hudson River, at One Hundred and Forty-fourth street, and were removed to the Morgue for identification....Charles Moore, aged twenty-five, resident of Brooklyn, fell on the sidewalk, at the corner of South and Fulton streets, and cut his head severely....Margaret Kearon, aged seventy, of No. 36 Henry street, fell on the sidewalk at No. 49 James street, and broke a leg.

NAVY-YARD NOTES.

The working force at the Brooklyn Navy-yard is being reduced from day to day, in accordance with orders received from Washington. Work has been stopped on the Florida and Minnesota. A large number of men were discharged from the dock and yard departments on Monday, and some further discharges are to be made within a few days. The triple-turreted monitor Roanoke, the flag-ship of the Port Admiral, is ready to take her station in the bay, and will probably leave the yard this morning. The steam-sloop Frolic, formerly Admiral Rowan's flag-ship, sailed yesterday with a draft of sailors for the squadron at Key West. The monitor Dictator sails for the same port on Friday. The Arapiles has not yet come up to the yard, but it is said she will have to go on the dry-dock for further repairs before going to sea.

NINETEENTH WARD RELIEF COMMITTEE.

It has been ascertained that upward of 300 families of working men are out of ordinary means of support in the Nineteenth Ward. As a matter of humanity, especially aimed at the poor of this ward, a movement has been initiated by leading citizens of that district which will largely result in the needed relief. The proprietors of the Windsor House gave the use of one of their parlors on Saturday evening last, and a meeting of citizens of the ward was held. The following constitute the Ward Committee: Gen. Stiles, Chairman; Geo. Conway, Secretary; E. T. Smith, Treasurer; Sigmund Kohn, J. J. Oppenheimer, S. Hawk, wardsmen Windsor House; A. Gascoigne, T. C. Pohle, G. G. Gregory, J. J. Post, A. Sinsheimer, and Thomas M. Young. A public meeting will soon be held in the ward and measures of relief are already instituted. Last evening, at the residence of Mr. J. J. Post, a meeting was held, and it was determined to establish a depot for receiving and distributing supplies, at a point to be immediately determined, the aim being to give instant relief. The ward runs from Fortieth to Eighty-sixth streets, and from the Sixth avenue to East River. Some of the wealthiest citizens of the ward are interesting themselves in the work.

A POLICE CAPTAIN ON TRIAL.

Capt. Jacob Siebert, of the Twenty-fourth Precinct, Harbor Police, was brought before Commissioner Gardner yesterday for trial on several charges of neglect of duty. The Captain is charged with having since his appointment to the command of the Police steamer Seneca habitually neglected his duty, spending most of his time on shore instead of on the steamer. Capt. Siebert was appointed to his present position on the 23d of August last. Rumors of an habitual neglect of duty soon reached the ears of the Police Commissioners, and by direction of Police Commissioner Gardner, Inspector McDermott proceeded to investigate the matter, and the investigation resulted in the charges on which the Captain was tried yesterday. The first charge was, that on the night of Nov. 26 and Dec. 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Capt. Siebert was absent from his precinct, and in the lager-beer saloon No. 10 Stanton street. The second charge was that from the 23d of August to Dec. 7 he had been absent from the Harbor Police boat various periods of time, ranging from five to forty-five hours in duration, and amounting in the aggregate to seventy-five days. The only witness for the prosecution was Inspector McDermott, who testified that on Nov. 26 the accused was in the lager-beer saloon No. 10 Stanton street from 10 to 11:43 P. M. On Dec. 1 he was in the same place from 9 to 9:35 P. M. On Dec. 4 he was there from 8:55 to 9:30 P. M. He then left the saloon and proceeded to the wine-saloon No. 146 East Fourteenth street, and remained there from 10 to 11:30. On Dec. 5 he was in the bar-room No. 10 Stanton street from 10:50 to 11:55 P. M. On Dec. 6 he was at the same place from 11 P. M. to 12:10, and during his stay there on this occasion he sat a table apparently playing cards. In relation to the second charge, that of being continually absent from the boat, Mr. S. G. Courtney, who appeared as counsel for the accused, stated that his client was absent, as charged, and also that when so absent he was engaged in business which he did not desire to explain in a public court.

Commissioner Gardner said that he had heard that there was to be a washing of dirty linen in this case. He (the Commissioner) had no dirty linen which he was afraid to have washed, and the accused could proceed and state what business he was attending to when absent from his legitimate duties, if he so desired.

Mr. Courtney replied that his client had already conceded that he was absent from duty, as charged in the complaint, and in relation to what he was doing at that time he felt bound, as a man of honor, to keep silence.

The counsel then proceeded to cross-examine Inspector McDermott in regard to the specifications of the first charge, comprising the numerous visits to the lager-beer saloon No. 10 Stanton street, but no material facts were elicited.

Capt. Siebert was then sworn, and testified that he did not remember that he was in the lager-beer saloon No. 10 Stanton street on the 26th of November, but he might have been there. Had no doubt he was there, as Inspector made oath that he saw him there. Visited the lager-beer saloon on the other occasions mentioned in the complaints for the purpose of obtaining information in relation to the robbery on the Italian brig Mattano, which occurred on the 30th of November. A man whom he knew all the river thieves promised to assist him in the pursuit of the robbers, and this man, whose name he declined to give unless it was absolutely necessary, refused to meet him except at a public house, and he (the Captain) named the lager-beer saloon No. 10 Stanton street, as the place for their interviews. He went there to meet this man every day and sometimes twice a day for a week, until he was taken sick on Dec. 9. During his illness the case was called for trial, and two men named Dugan and Carroll were convicted. These men he is now satisfied were innocent of the crime for which they were sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment each. The man whom he met in the saloon, and who was furnishing him with such valuable information, was in court, but he did not wish to have him examined. This man told him that Patsey Conroy was one of the men engaged in the robbery, but did not succeed in arresting him. The Captain was cross-examined by Inspector McDermott, and showed a lamentable ignorance of his duties as a Captain of Police. He also admitted that he was absent from duty when the brig Mattano was robbed, and was absent from a fire at Nos. 51 and 53 Front street, which occurred on the 30th of November, and did not know anything about the conflagration until Superintendent Matsell sent a messenger to his residence directing him to proceed to the fire forthwith, and take command of the boat, which had been at the fire then for several hours. It was also shown by the Captain's statements that the discipline of the force on the boat was bad.

No other witness for the defense was produced, but at the request of Capt. Siebert's counsel the mysterious witness who, it was claimed, gave such valuable information in regard to the Mattano robbery, was privately examined by Commissioner Gardner. This man proves to be William, alias "Pudding," Long, a notorious character, known to the Police as "the river thief, but who now holds the position of Inspector in the Department of Public Works. This man was arrested by the Harbor Police on suspicion of having been concerned in the robbery of the Mattano, but was discharged by Capt. Siebert, who purposely kept Long's name from the record of the case. Long, it might be mentioned, testified that he met Capt. Siebert on several occasions at the lager-beer saloon in question, as testified by the accused. The case was referred to the board for decision.

ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS.

Ex-Congressman Julius Hotchkiss, of Connecticut, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

M. Lefaivre, French Consul at Riga, Russia, is at the New-York Hotel.

Ex-Mayor Richard Vaux, of Philadelphia, and Capt. T. F. Tobey, United States Army, are at the Hoffman House.

Hon. John V. L. Pruyn, of Albany, and Frederick B. Gowan, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, are at the Brevoort House.

Hon. W. W. Hoppin, of Rhode Island; Judge Smalley, of Vermont; H. P. Borie, of Philadelphia, and J. T. Burr, President of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad Company, are at the Windsor Hotel.

Lieut. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan and Gen. G. A. Forsyth, United State Army; Washington McLean, of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*; Gen. Benjamin LeFevre, of Ohio; Hon. E. R. Hoar, member of Congress, of Massachusetts; John V. Farwell, of the Indian Peace Commission, and Homer A. Nelson, of Poughkeepsie, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

MEETING OF STEAM-BOAT AND TUG OWNERS.

At a meeting of steam-boat and tug owners, held to-day at the office of Messrs. Warford, Robinson & Co., for the purpose of appointing a committee to represent them, and lay before the Secretary of the Treasury, at Washington, their grievances with reference to fines imposed upon certain steam-boats and tugs for alleged violation of the statute regulating the carrying of lights, &c., Lamson Boyer, Esq., was elected Chairman, and D. M. Munger, Esq., Secretary. A committee was appointed, consisting of the following named gentlemen: Isaac L. Fisher, David Cox, and C. H. Baxter, Jr., to confer with the Secretary, and ask of him a remission of the fines imposed. The meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.

THE LAWRENCE EXTRADITION CASE.

The case of Joab Lawrence again came up for argument in the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday on a new writ of habeas corpus. Messrs. Bartlett, counsel for Lawrence, asked for a dismiss *pro forma* on the merits, in order to have the benefit of an appeal. District Attorney Phelps argued that the case was *res adjudicata*, two writs having been already dismissed. Further argument was postponed till this morning.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER.

The business in the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday was unusually light, and at 1 o'clock an adjournment till this morning took place. The following cases were disposed of: James Donovan pleaded guilty to petit larceny, and was sent to the House of Refuge; Michael Higgins pleaded guilty to grand larceny, and was sent to the State Prison for five years; James Higgins pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny, and was sent to the State Prison for two years and six months.

THE BENONI HOWARD TRIAL.

In the trial of Benoni Howard, which was continued yesterday in the criminal branch of the United States Circuit Court, before Judge Benedict, the defense concluded the examination of their witnesses, and Mr. Huntingdon, of counsel for the defendant, proceeded to address the jury on behalf of his client. His summing up was not concluded at the adjournment of the court and will be resumed this morning.

NOTICE TO THE BAR.

On Friday next, at 11 o'clock, in the United States Circuit Court, No. 41 Chambers street, Judge Nathaniel Shipman will call the causes on the present Jury Calendar, from No. 1 to No. 200, inclusive, such as have not been already disposed of, to ascertain what cases are ready for trial during the residue of the term. All members of the Bar who are interested in the first 200 cases on the calendar are notified to be present and ready.

CITY AND SUBURBAN NEWS.

NEW-YORK.

There was skating at Central Park yesterday.

The Controller's Department paid out yesterday $104,079 46, and received $51,882 68.

The letter-carriers of Station D gave their sixth annual ball last evening at Irving Hall.

Harriet F. Douleny lectured last evening at the Cooper Institute, Room No. 24, on "The Law of Life."

Mr. E. Pratt, agent of the Children's Aid Society, left for the West yesterday with a party of 120 persons.

The New-York Schnetzen Guild last evening gave an annual ball at the Union Assembly Rooms, in Grand street.

The Harmonie Vocal Society gave a musical and dramatic entertainment in the hall of the Germania Assembly Rooms last night.

The salesmen of the Importers Combination, No. 537 Broadway, last evening gave an "Invitation Hop" at the Terrace Garden Theatre.

Company B, of the Eleventh Regiment, Capt. Charles Grote, gave its twenty-first annual ball at the Germania Assembly Rooms last night.

Ark Lodge No. 28, I. O. O. F., celebrated its thirty-fourth anniversary by a ball at Ferrero's Assembly Rooms, Fourteenth street, last night.

Last evening the Fifty-fifth Regiment N. G. S. N. Y. gave a reception to friends at the State Arsenal, Thirty-fifth street and Seventh avenue.

A fair for the benefit of St. Ann's Catholic Church, on Twelfth street, is to commence in Ferrero's Assembly Rooms, Tammany Hall, on the 7th of April next.

Mr. Geo. H. Yeaman closed a course of twenty lectures last night on "Constitutional Law," in the Society Hall of the Columbia College Law School, at Great Jones street and Lafayette place.

Nathaniel Hayden, for fifteen years President of the Chatham National Bank, has resigned. The Directors of the institution presented Mr. Hayden, on his retirement, with a handsome service of silver.

Thomas Walsh, aged forty, of No. 859 Third avenue, while suffering from delirium tremens, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a pocket-knife. He was cared for at Bellevue Hospital.

Michael Lyon obtained a verdict yesterday for $100 against the owner of the Greenpoint Ferry for the loss of his arm, he having had it bruised between the boat and the dock, making amputation necessary.

The Fourteenth Assembly District German Reform organization elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Justice Otterbourg, President; Secretaries, B. Eybel and John Beyer; Treasurer, John Meister.

Detectives Heidelberg, Tilley, and Keirns yesterday raided on the banco gambling-houses at No. 533 Canal street and No. 11 Hoboken street, and arrested eight swindlers, who were held for trial by Judge Morgan at the Tombs.

At the meeting of the Board of Health, yesterday, the Board of Police were requested to cause the cellars recently vacated by order of the sanitary authorities to be frequently inspected by policemen, and to prevent their reoccupation.

Mary Ann Gillen, aged four years, of No. 82 Mulberry street, was run over in front of her residence by a coal-cart driven by John Collins, and was so badly injured that she died soon after at the Park Hospital. Collins was arrested.

A stated meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers will be held at the rooms, No. 63 William street, this evening, at 8 o'clock. Subject for consideration—"Tests of Materials used in Construction, and Testing machines."

Judge Lawrence yesterday granted an order to show cause why a writ of mandamus should not issue to compel Auditor Earle to audit the claim of Robert Bonynge for $55 for extra work as stenographer in the cases of Thompson and Foster, tried in the Court of Oyer and Terminer.

At the meeting of the New-York Farmers' Club, yesterday, papers were read by Mr. Morrell on "Feeding Cattle," and by Mr. George May Powell on "Forestry," with several interesting letters on the "Cost of Producing Wheat" and on "Trout Culture." A full report of the proceedings will be found in THE WEEKLY TIMES.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Union Trust Company, yesterday, the following-named gentlemen were elected Trustees: H. K. Bogert, George W. Cuyler, W. Butler Duncan, Wm. F. Russell, E. B. Wesley, A. A. Low, J. B. Johnston, Henry G. Chapman, C. D. Wood, S. B. Chittenden.

Thurlow Weed, Controller Green, Fire Commissioner Hatch, Alderman Morris, and "Nosey" Quinn, had interviews with Mayor Havemeyer yesterday. During